

Turkey under martial law after bloodless dawn coup

Turkey was under martial law yesterday after a bloodless coup led by General Kenan Evren, Chief of the General Staff. Political leaders, including Mr Süleyman Demirel, the Prime Minister, and Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Opposition leader, were detained for their own safety. General Evren pledged

Turkey's continued loyalty to Nato [Report, page 5]. In London it was hoped that Turkey's difficulties would be overcome sufficiently to allow a return to democracy. EEC officials said there would be no automatic freezing of relations. The United States said aid would continue.

Political leaders taken into custody 'for own safety'

from Sinan Fisek
Nicosia, Sept. 12
Turkey's most senior military commanders, led by General Kenan Evren, Chief of the General Staff, ordered a bloodless coup.

The radio played martial music in the small hours of the morning and at about 4.30 a local time the "first committee" of the National Security Council, signed by General Evren, was read. "Parliament and the Government have been abolished," the radio broadcast said. "Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the country and a curfew has been imposed."

Later communiques said that Süleyman Demirel, the Prime Minister, Mr Bulent Ecevit, the Opposition leader, and Mr Neomettin Sebhat, President of the Islamic Fundamentalist National Salvation Party, had been detained.

The communiques said the political leaders had been taken into protective custody by the Army for their own safety. Mr Demirel and Mr Ecevit were reported to have been sent to a military base in Alilipoli and Mr Sebhat to a marine base at Unvan, in a bay of Osmis. They were "under strict guard" and "will be released when the situation allows it."

One person, however, was missing. A communique from Ankara martial law commander said that Mr Akislik, the "chairman" of the right-wing Nationalist Democracy Party, was not at his home when soldiers arrived. The martial law commander led on Mr Turkey to "his own house" and "the nearest military unit for his own safety". Later reports said that Turkey had finally succeeded in locating a central station town where his party was a large following, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

Other unconfirmed reports said that about 100 MPs had been detained, although General Evren said in a televised speech at some of them would be released. "Other cases who are broken down by the post were under investigation and could not stand trial because of their parliamentary immunity."



Troops were the only people on the streets of Istanbul yesterday—to enforce the curfew that followed the coup.

In keeping with the tradition of the Turkish military, General Evren said that his National Security Council would not "take power over to the civilian" but would "continue to work for the country's safety" and "in domestic affairs" until a new government was formed.

The general had strong words against the politicians who, he complained, had refused to listen to his repeated attempts to warn them of the dangers Turkey had to face.

Irresponsible politicians, he added, had caused a blind eye to the situation for the sake of petty party politics. Referring to the fact that Parliament had failed in over five months of polling, General Evren said: "In no other country in the world has there been such a waste of time."

Ashara under curfew this morning was totally deserted, with the military presence not as imposing as one might have expected.

Paratroops of the Commando Brigade patrolled the streets, politely asking the few civilian passers-by for identification, stopping cars and chatting with the few people who had come out in front of their doors.

At strategic points on the main avenue, the Ataturk Boulevard, and at the exits of the city a regiment of tanks was deployed. Armoured personnel carriers, machine-guns ready, fired were parked alongside sidewalks.

In the more popular neighbourhoods, the curfew was observed very casually. In the Jecusa area, a slum neighbourhood, people were out in large numbers, watching the soldiers and the tanks. A group of boys were playing football in the empty street.

The curfew was lifted in the afternoon and people emerged in large numbers, crowding in the sun. Everything was peaceful and calm, and there was almost a tangible sense of relief. The curfew was imposed again after nightfall. It was not known whether it would be lifted during the daytime hours tomorrow.

General Evren, aged 62, is one of the most respected military figures in Turkey and has a reputation for always having wanted to keep the Army out of politics. His previous warnings to politicians were paternal in tone rather than threatening.

Flights cancelled: All flights between London and Turkey were cancelled after the coup. A spokesman for Turkish Airlines at Heathrow said: "We are waiting to hear from our people out there." British Airways said it was "keeping the situation under review."

Nato pledge, photographs and general's warning, page 5
Coup that had to happen, page 12

Mr Steel lays claim to Liberal-led government of reform

From Fred Emery
Political Editor
Blackpool

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, sought yesterday to lift the spirits of a majority of voters who, he believes, are ready to join him.

In a fighting speech to the Liberal Assembly at Blackpool he offered a Liberal-led Government of partnership and reconciliation "as the alternative to Mrs Margaret Thatcher or the union-riddled Labour Party."

Mr Steel, preserving all his options towards potential recruits for the coalition he seeks to build in the coming year and urging purists in his party not to exclude anyone, nonetheless ambitiously insisted that the new government be Liberal-led.

In a peroration that swept his delegate into sustained applause, Mr Steel declared: "If we can grasp the political initiative, I believe the next general election could see the end of the old politics and the beginning of the new."

I foresee a Liberal vote so massive and the number of Liberal MPs so great that we shall hold the initiative in the new parliament. No government will be formed without us. I know that many MPs in the other parties will be ready to ally themselves with us once that moment comes."

He went on: "Liberals and their progressive allies would come together to form what the country has needed for so long. A Liberal-led government, government of partnership and reconciliation..."

So the message to Mr Roy Jenkins was: Welcome, but at best as co-leader of a government to which Mr Steel has laid claim. As for the likes of Mrs Shirley Williams, their possible defections from Labour seem to have been written off by Mr Steel.

Something whatever happened at Labour's conference through the union block vote as "profoundly illiberal and unacceptable," Mr Steel predicted a "fused compromise" allowing "those of publicly proclaimed

tender conscience" to stay hopeful of "picking up places in the next Labour Cabinet."

Mr Steel, speaking with flashes of passion, made a notable new Liberal commitment in calling for a ban on such provocative activities "through immigrant neighbourhoods."

It was not free speech, he said. "That is nazism and must be resisted by all the legislation that exists to ban such provocative activities."

In a lengthy passage he pledged the party's "total and utter support" for ethnic minorities "so cruelly intimidated and harassed."

The butt of Mr Steel's attack was inevitably Mrs Thatcher. Her economic policy was "in ruins," Mr Steel said. The Conservatives must change course "even if it means dropping the pilot to do so."

He charged that the Government's blind non-intervention was "permanently destroying parts of the British economy. The nation's asset strippers, he said grimly, were now "round the Cabinet table in No 10."

Mr Steel derided Mrs Thatcher personally, with unusual bitterness, for what he called her narrow view of life and her passion for confrontation in politics.

The remark he ascribed to her about the unemployed in South Wales—"let them move house"—he said deserved to go down in history alongside "let them eat cake."

He likened her in a First World War general's determination to go on pursuing objectives "at whatever human cost" in defiance of all the evidence, that the strategy has collapsed.

He shouted: "It is not her courage that I question. It is simply her judgement. She is just plain wrong."

The Thatcher Government, he went on, was one of rejection of persuasion and compromise, and he issued a warning of eventual conflict.

"The logic is inescapable. Violent language eventually provokes violent action."

Continued on page 2, col 2

Exit elusive Hercules, pursued by a posse

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow, Sept. 12

Hercules, the 8ft brown bear, missing for almost three weeks in the Western Isles, was seen yesterday but evaded capture by heading into mist-covered mountains on North Uist.

The 40-stone animal headed for freedom on August 21 after his owner took him for a swim on an island near by. No positive trace of Hercules had been reported until yesterday morning when a crofter at Baf-martin, Tigharry, was setting out to work and saw the bear in front of his neighbour's door. The house is near the nature reserve at Balnald.

The alarm was raised and Hercules, who has appeared as "The Big Softy" in television advertisements for miler tissue, lumbered away. He was followed by a posse of local people led by the bear's owner, Mr Andy Robbins, a former Commonwealth wrestling champion.

After a chase of several miles they came within 200 yards of the animal but he ignored all blandishments and forged ahead once more.

Police called off the chase as Hercules headed into thick mist near the mountain of Ben Bulbin. They said it would have been too dangerous to continue on to the moors in the terrible weather.

Although a local school was closed yesterday, Hercules is unlikely to be dangerous. He was terribly spoilt by the Robbins family, who fed him fish, dog food, cakes, and now and then a pint at the family public house.

The sighting was a great relief to Mr Robbins. Hercules is heavily insured for public liability and £1,000 has been offered to the person making the sighting leading to his recapture.

Locals, intrigued by the excitement the bear has caused, were yesterday reported to be keen on allowing Hercules to carry off a wendy. They hope he might become a sort of abominable bear, rivaling the yeti and that other Scottish monster.

Mr Healey rages at recall snub

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Mr Denis Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night joined the political battle over the Prime Minister's refusal to recall Parliament, by making a swingeing personal attack on Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

He accused the Prime Minister of being as "pishheaded" and "peremptory" with the Confederation of British Industry as she was with Parliament by rejecting the demand for an early debate on the "appalling prospect which she has created for Britain."

Mr Healey may well have been amused at his choice of epithet, as he was speaking in Dunmow, Essex, the home of the Flitch.

Meanwhile, Mrs Thatcher yesterday dismissed Mr Callaghan's "peremptory" charges by informing him in a second letter that she had consulted her principal colleagues before rejecting the request for a recall.

The shadow chancellor said in his speech that Mrs Thatcher "would rather pull down

the pillars of the temple than admit that she has ever been wrong about anything." He added: "Yet she has now broken every single promise she made in the last election, and everyone of her policies has failed."

"She tells us she will stick to the course she has set herself," Mr Healey continued. "But this week's figures show that she is as wildly off course on her monetary policy as on everything else."

In her letter to Mr Callaghan she had said that workers were pricing themselves out of jobs because they had increased their earnings faster than the supply of money.

"But she had to admit this week that she has increased the supply of money in the last 12 months faster than they increased their earnings. If her monetarist theories are right, this means we are set for another rise in inflation in the next 12 months."

She was setting Britain on the road to ruin, and even her own supporters were beginning

to recognize this truth. Mr Healey went on: "That is why she is frightened to allow Parliament even to discuss how to save Britain from disaster."

The Prime Minister, in her letter to Mr Callaghan, reiterated her previous statement that monetary supply had indeed been too fast, and it meant it was crucial to keep government borrowing under control.

She wrote: "The Government are determined to achieve this by carrying out the policies which they have presented to Parliament in the Budget and on many other occasions."

Mrs Thatcher said she had made it absolutely clear in the parliamentary debate on July 29 that if earnings continued to increase at a high rate, unemployment would go on rising.

"This is why we have repeatedly sought your support in achieving moderation in pay settlements so that the conditions can be re-established for renewed growth and higher employment," she said.

CBI plea refused, page 17

3L loses £155m in first half of year

lost £155m during the first half of the present financial year. Further heavy losses are expected in the second half and the Government is expected to make a statement on the future of the group soon after Parliament reassembles in October. The pre-tax loss was

£15m more than the loss for the whole of last year when the group lost £140m. The first half of £20.1m Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of 3L, revealed that government approval will be sought for the launch of the company's new middle-range car, to be known as the 1C-11. Page 17

Prison deaths reach 44

The number of deaths in custody so far this year has risen to 44 with the second fatality at Leeds jail in three days and the third in the prison system this month. Page 3

Channel exercise gets under way

Some 18,000 Territorial Army members are crossing the Channel as part of Crusader 80, an exercise to discover how quickly the British Army of the Rhine can be reinforced in crisis. Page 3

ad of the line

1,400 workers at the Consett works in Co Durham ended quietly as the last of metal wear through plant, adding their jobs and than a hundred years of tinous production. Page 2

Classified advertisements

Entertainment, pages 8, 10; Personal, 23, 24; Property, 23; Appointments, 23; Home and garden, 23; Postal shoppers 23

Cuban envoy to UN assassinated

By David Blake
Economics Editor

New York, Sept. 12—The Cuban Mission to the United Nations was turned into an armed camp today after a diplomat was shot dead by an anti-Castro group that has vowed to kill Mr Raul Roa, the Cuban Representative to the United Nations, next.

Senior Felix Garcia Rodriguez, aged 41, was gunned down last night as he drove through the New York borough of Queens.

Mr Garcia, an attaché to the Cuban Mission, was the first United Nations diplomat to be assassinated in New York since the city became host to the organization in 1945.

Responsibility for the murder was claimed by "Omega 7", an anti-Castro terrorist group that has killed other pro-Castro Cubans. The group once tried unsuccessfully to blow up Senator Roa's car.

Authorities in New York said they feared the Cubans might try to avenge Senator Garcia's murder.

A few minutes after the murder, Omega 7 phoned two New York news organizations and a man with a heavy Spanish accent said Senator Roa would be the group's next target.

In Havana, the official daily Cuban newspaper, *Granma*, accused the United States of failing to suppress anti-communist terrorists.

Havana radio called Senator Garcia's shooting a "cowardly murder" and said: "These terrorist bands are the authors of numerous attempts and aggressions against our diplomatic representation at the United Nations."—Reuter and AP.

Inflation rate falls to 16.3% during August

The smallest monthly rise in the retail index for more than three years brought the annual inflation rate in August down to 16.3 per cent. In July the annual rate was 16.9 per cent.

The fall brings unexpected good news for the Government; prices are rising less rapidly than the Government target for the year, and many price rises in the public sector have still to work through the system to be included in the index and industrial costs continue to increase.

The retail price index in August went up to 258.5 from 257.9 in July. As always, price rises at this time of the year, seasonal food prices fell so the 0.2 per cent increase during the month gives an optimistic view of inflation.

But even if seasonal foods are excluded, the price increase in August was only 0.4 per cent and the underlying rate of inflation over the previous 12 months fell to 17.3 from 19.6 per cent in July.

At the heart of the easing of price increases is a recession of extraordinary severity. Shops are holding prolonged sales, to reduce stocks which they cannot afford to finance because of high interest rates.

Imports are becoming even more competitive because of the strength of sterling. The pound's high exchange rate makes imports cheaper because foreign producers value their goods in foreign currencies.

But the strong pound also helps British manufacturers be-

cause it cuts the cost of imported raw materials.

All these forces are helping the Government in its fight to reduce inflation and so are the tentative signs that workers may be prepared to reduce wage demands because of the threat to jobs from the recession.

But powerful inflationary forces remain within the economy and these have only been held in check recently at the expense of industry's profits.

Wages are about 70 per cent of industrial costs and have risen at more than 20 per cent a year.

Because the recession has forced companies to cut output even faster than they have reduced the workforce, productivity has declined. So the cost of each unit of output has risen particularly rapidly.

Even allowing for wages in manufacturing rising more slowly than in the service sector, the recent increases in wage costs for most of industry must have been nearly 20 per cent.

Absorption of these cost increases seems to have been split between manufacturers and retailers. Shops have held down prices to clear stocks.

The most recent figures for retail sales in July suggest that in spite of the fall in the high street have fallen in response to higher unemployment and fears about the future.

New provisional figures for August retail sales to be announced on Monday will Continued on page 17, col 2

Yard to interview two men held in Chicago

By Craig Seton

Two men arrested in Chicago in connection with a film jewelry robbery in Knightsbridge, London, 11 hours earlier were linked to a car hired in London and bookings on a flight from Heathrow, Scotland Yard said yesterday. A £50,000 reward has been offered for the recovery of the gems.

Joseph Scallie and Arthur Rachel, both aged 42, of Chicago, were arrested by FBI agents at the city's airport when they arrived on a direct flight from London. Yesterday they appeared in court in Chicago charged with conspiracy to commit interstate theft and were remanded in custody after failing to meet \$200,000 bail guarantees each.

Scotland Yard said it was preparing a formal request for their extradition. The FBI in Chicago said the men would remain in custody pending a further hearing or an order for their extradition.

Senior officers yesterday detailed the rapid timetable of events that followed the armed raid by two men at Graff's jewellers in Brompton Road, about 11 am on Thursday. Among the 20 items taken was a necklace containing a £400,000 diamond formerly owned by the late Dowager Duchess of Marlborough.

The number of a car leaving the scene of the robbery was taken and externally broadcast by Capital Radio. A member of the staff of Hertz at Marble

Arch realized that it was similar to one on a green Fiat Mirafiori rented earlier in the week. The company provided the police with the names of two men from Illinois and their room numbers at the Mount Royal Hotel.

The police established that the men had left the hotel and asked British Airways to check passenger lists for flights from Heathrow to America. Although the Chicago flight left at 2.15 pm, Scotland Yard was reasonably certain by 4 pm and certain by 5 pm that the men were on the flight.

The FBI was alerted and when the aircraft landed at Chicago at 10.30 pm British time Mr Scallie and Mr Rachel were arrested by FBI agents.

Their baggage and the plane were searched but nothing was found.

Det Chief Supt Michael Taylor, head of the Robbery Squad, said yesterday that he was keeping an open mind about the whereabouts of the jewelry, but many inquiries were being made. The reward had been offered by insurance assessors.

He expected that a senior Scotland Yard officer would fly to Chicago to interview the two men about the robbery, "and a number of other matters", and a request would be made for their extradition.

The green Fiat Mirafiori was found in the Victoria area of London last night and was being examined by scientists.

Buying Dewar's is like hooking a salmon when you expected a trout.

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HOME NEWS

Lord Soper supports euthanasia but calls Exit guide fat-headed

From Richard Ford
Oxford

The campaign for legalised voluntary euthanasia yesterday gained the strong support of Lord Soper, the leading Methodist, who told a meeting attended by 200 people he was a fervent supporter of their aims.

He has told his wife and close friends that if he has a terminal illness he wants to be given drugs that would ease pain and shorten his life. They had not been "surprised", although, characteristically, he added that he hoped he would die suddenly on Tower Hill while preaching at an open-air service.

Lord Soper is opposed, however, to the publication by Exit, the Society for the Right to Die with Dignity, of a booklet called *A Guide to Self-Deliverance*, which threatens to split the organization, whose membership has grown in eight months from 2,000 to 9,000.

The society decided last month to stop publication of the 30-page booklet, which includes guidance on five methods of painless suicide and an appendix listing lethal overdoses after legal advice that the society could be prosecuted under the Suicide Act, 1961, for aiding and abetting.

The decision, taken by eight of the committee of twelve members on a vote of four to three, with one abstention, has been criticized within the organization, and two resolutions expressing no confidence in the committee have been submitted for the annual general meeting next month.

At the opening of a three-day conference on voluntary euthanasia and suicide being held by the organization at Oxford, it was predicted that the no-confidence motions would be passed, and that a new committee would be elected favouring publication of the booklet.

Lord Soper said of the booklet, which is available in Scotland: "I am against its being published. Providing what is in fact a suicide kit is like handing a bread knife to a child. It is fat-headedness." But he did not say he would resign from Exit if the decision to publish went ahead.

Earlier, he had told the conference he was a fervent supporter of the principle of voluntary euthanasia. "It removes the fear of dying, the fear of all the terrible and nauseous conditions that often prevail when it comes to the end."

His own father, at the end of his life, had complained about decisions hindering his approach to the celestial world. "He wanted to go home, and in the simplest of terms what right have we to prevent someone from going home by all the drugs and stupidity that belong to this materialistic world?"

Ultimately the society would succeed, because voluntary euthanasia was something that he already told his wife and friends that in a terminal condition I would ask that I be allowed to die and given drugs that would ease pain, but whose effects would shorten my life," he added.

Exit, formerly known as the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, is campaigning for the law to be changed to allow doctors to be involved in euthanasia at the request of a suffering patient if requested in advance.

Two independent witnesses, who had nothing to gain by the death of the patient, would need to testify to the request and two doctors must agree that the patient had a terminal illness.

Mr Nicholas Reed, aged 33, general secretary of Exit, said it has received 10,000 requests for the booklet. If it is not published in England by the end of this year, he says, he will resign.

Trawler lost as gales cause havoc in North

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

Force 10 winds and torrential rain in the West of Scotland and the North of England uprooted trees, flooded roads, disrupted train services, and caused havoc among shipping yesterday.

Many yachts and small vessels were driven from their moorings. Clyde coastguards said they had had many emergency calls for help. The crew of the Dutch dredger, the *Holland*, were rescued by lifeboats in the approaches to the Clyde off Irvine, and aircraft were searching for the *Hlein*, an Icelandic trawler with a crew of six missing since it left Fleetwood in Lancashire on Wednesday.

The search for the *Hlein* was being concentrated on the Minches, the area of sea between the Western Isles and Scotland's north-west coast. The trawler left Fleetwood with a group of other Icelandic trawlers for the homeward voyage, but the other ships lost contact with her.

Police in Glasgow issued a long list of roads closed by flooding and fallen trees. The M8 was blocked for a time. On the railways the 7.53 am from Manchester and the 7.37 am from Liverpool, both bound for Glasgow, were stopped at Carlisle. Two passenger trains from Glasgow to England were cancelled and other services were disrupted.

Widernere death: Miss Ann Collinson, aged 21, of Dereham, Norfolk, when she was travelling in which she was sitting with three others capsized on Wednesday in heavy winds.

Cumbrian crashes: Police and motorway organisations issued warnings to drivers using the M6 in Cumbria after a lorry driver was taken to hospital with back injuries when his lorry jackknifed. Three cars were also blown over.



Hospital violence: Police removing a demonstrator outside St Benedict's Hospital, Tooting, south London, yesterday. Demonstrators, angry over plans to close the hospital, barricaded the main gates. Three vehicles finally broke through after police were brought in to remove up to thirty protesters. Inside the grounds administration staff cut through the chains that held the gates and dismantled the barricades. There was a lot of shouting. The tyres of two of the ambulances were slashed and a brick was thrown through one of the windows. The South West Thames Regional Health Authority said St Benedict's has been under virtual siege since final closure plans were announced by Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Minister for Health. Staff and union representatives have consistently fought attempts to move patients. Six eventually transferred, leaving a hundred elderly patients still to be moved.

Three thousand men see their work trickle to a halt. Consett watches the steel run out

From Ronald Kershaw
Consett, Co Durham

When you have spent all your working life here and built up a relationship with the workforce you feel sorry.

Mr Atkinson, who is not due to leave the plant immediately, said: "The important thing about the Consett workforce is that they will go out of their jobs with dignity. To the very last hour the steel has been made with the same degree of perfection as all the rest."

In fact, there was a slight change of routine as samples of steel were taken for testing yesterday; small moulds were poured so that the men on the plant could each take home a small ingot.

Consett is part of British Steel's Teesside division. The converter carried the painted slogan: "Teesside cut off its right arm" and "RIP, 1864-1980", a reference to the closure of the plant in 1980. It was retained as a back-up plant in the event of the failure of the 10,000-tonne Redcar blast furnace, now the sole source of iron for steel-making in the North-east.

The Redcar plant did break down last week, and 1,500 steelworkers at the Lakenby works near by were sent home for a week. British Steel was hopeful that production at Redcar would return to normal this weekend.

Most men at Consett feel cheated. They were told the works must become profitable to stay open. They became profitable, but the closure went ahead.

They are disgruntled at having to take their severance pay, which ranges from £3,500 to £22,000 in two instalments, one now and one in a year's time. They feel they should be paid the interest the delayed money would have accrued.

On the question of voluntary severance, Mr Dennis Meadows, branch secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "They have been selling some people who will be required for another two and a half years. The run-down is from September 13 to December 31, 1980. Any working after that is voluntary, as in the agreement, but the management are refusing to recognize that clause and say they have the option of retaining anybody they see fit. The reason is they cannot get any volunteers."

For those who finished work yesterday, the prospects are bleak. Of 2,900 men, only three had found jobs.

Body of man taken by IRA is found

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The body of Mr Wallace Allen, aged 42, the reserve police constable kidnapped by the Provisional IRA last Sunday week, was discovered in a remote spot just inside the Ulster border in south Armagh yesterday.

The IRA issued a statement during the morning saying where his body could be found, but the police said they had made the discovery two hours earlier.

The IRA statement did not indicate why it had not previously disclosed the whereabouts of Mr Allen, despite appeals by church leaders.

The body was found beside a country lane, at a place known locally as Traynor's Bridge, near Newrytown, Hamilton.

The police and Army have moved many extra men to the border from Belfast, but the authorities show no signs of yielding to pressure for the permanent closure of most of the multitudes of narrow country roads that cross the border. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the IRA is shifting more of the emphasis of its campaign from Belfast to the border.

Detectors in Dublin yesterday were questioning an Englishman in connection with the rape and murder of Deborah Robinson, a Belfast teenager, whose body was found in a ditch on Monday.

Arms found: In a raid on an isolated farm, north of the South Armagh border last night, police of the Irish Republic found rockets and rocket launchers (the Press Association reports). Three men were held for questioning.

Dock peace still in the balance

By Our Labour Staff

Port employers at Liverpool last night strongly criticized the National Dock Labour Board which suggested on Wednesday that they should employ 178 dockers due to lose their jobs in order to avoid a national strike.

A blunt statement after a meeting of the Liverpool Port Employers Association said: "The National Dock Labour Board has failed to discharge its responsibilities, laid upon it by the dock labour scheme, and has shown a lack of appreciation of the gravity of Liverpool labour surplus problem."

The board's recommendation is based on a wish to avoid a national docks strike regardless of the long-term effects on the Port of Liverpool, the employers said.

They had some time ago made clear that they were not prepared to take on the dockers, who are due to lose their jobs by the end of the month, because they are already overmanned. Officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union saw the board's recommendation as a hopeful sign that the strike might be averted, but last night's statement dimmed those hopes.

The employers did, however, offer an olive branch with Bulk Cargo Handling Services' agreement to extend the notice period to 10 dockers until September 21. They were due to lose their jobs on Tuesday, but will instead become jobless on the same day that T. and J. Harrison, a stevedore company, dismisses 159 dockers.

Dockers in the port are due to hold a mass meeting tomorrow when it was thought they would call for a strike to start on Tuesday. The employers' decision might influence that and another meeting being held in London on Monday.

New offence of illegal picketing sought

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, came under renewed pressure yesterday to convert the draft code of practice on picketing into law. A report published by the Conservative Party's "think tank" called for a new offence of unlawful picketing to be created.

The report from the trade union reform committee of the Centre for Policy Studies suggested a maximum fine of £300 and 200 hours' community service for first offenders and a maximum term of six months' imprisonment for a second offence.

Mr Prior has asked for views from the public and interested organizations on the code which suggests that the number of pickets at a place of work should be restricted to six. The committee's recommendations, which it insists are not "draconian", set out a tight framework for legal picketing.

Mr Paul McCormick, acting chairman of the committee, said yesterday that it was not the committee's intention to make martyrs of trade unionists. "In the case of a small, persistent, implacable minority, who are determined to go to prison, we cannot very well shut the prison gates against them."

In addition to fines, the committee proposes that vehicles knowingly used for transporting pickets for the purpose of unlawful picketing should be liable to forfeiture. A conviction for unlawful picketing would count as an automatic five-year disqualification from holding union office.

Conventions would also mean a five-year ban on the offender organizing or taking part in a picket and should provide ground for fair dismissal from employment, according to the report.

Officials of the committee said yesterday that as many as 90 per cent of their recommendations had been accepted by Mr Prior in his code, and they believed he had not ruled out the possibility of enshrining the principles of the code in law.

Anyone taking part in a demonstration within 500 yards of the official picket would be deemed to be taking part.

Minister's plea over threatened yard

The Government was not intending to intervene in the unofficial strike at the oil platform construction yard at Hunterston, Ayrshire, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday.

He appealed to management and workers to "sort out a solution" to the two-week-old dispute over alleged infringements of safety regulations at the yard before "the possibility of closure" becomes a fact.

There have been reports that the American owners of the yard, Chicago Bridge International, have already decided to shut the yard for good.

Mr Younger, however, said that while he had not been in touch with the company, as far as he knew closure was a possibility at this stage, rather than a firm decision.

"All I have heard is that if the dispute cannot be settled it will probably have to be closed. The company would not comment yesterday on the reports."

Weather forecast and recordings



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Crane strikers threaten Thames barrier

By Our Labour Staff

A national strike of crane drivers that started last night on construction sites could threaten important projects such as the Thames Barrier and oil-rig building.

More than 2,000 crane drivers, members of the constructional section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, were ordered out because of a dispute over payment for time spent maintaining cranes.

The union said that during negotiations construction employers had agreed to an increase in hourly rates from £1.77 to £2.20 but insisted that the drivers should receive only £1 for the hour they are paid for maintenance.

The union called an overtime ban to press for the hour to be paid at full rate. Some workers ignored the call, but others, particularly in the north of England, responded. That led some employers to dismiss drivers.

The strike will continue until the men are reinstated, the union said. It may be days before the dispute halts work on construction projects.

Nine sent for trial

Nine men were sent for trial at the High Court, Glasgow, from the city's sheriff court yesterday accused of conspiring to commit acts of terrorism on behalf of the Scottish Republican Socialist League. They were all remanded in custody.

State's grip on housing associations loosened

From John Young
Planning Reporter
Sheffield

Changes that will effectively free housing associations from direct government control were announced yesterday by John Stanley, Minister of Housing and Construction.

The Housing Corporation, whose future has recently been in some doubt, is to be given greater responsibility, independence. It will have a responsibility for the approval, and control, of individual association projects and the role of the Department of the Environment will be limited to broad policy matters and to determining expenditure.

Mr Stanley, who was addressing the annual conference of the National Federation of Housing Associations in St. Paul's, said that ending "doe scrutiny" of associations schemes by the corporation, the department was only first step towards greater freedom in decision-making.

But he gave a warning: "The inescapable and necessary condition for removing control would be a reduction in government control of public housing. The more direct financial responsibility associations were willing to assume the more freedom they could be given to pursue their schemes in their own way."

Housing associations, he said, are "big money" houses. "A number of individual associations will this year spend significantly more than the average of large housing authorities."

The high level of approval in previous years meant the corporation's expenditure allocation for the present financial year was not too far off. He therefore had alternative but to ask corporations to reduce for time being the level of approvals until its cash flow was brought back on course.

The Government would make a special £12m allocation to the corporation for the provision of housing accommodation 1981-82, he said. Housing associations would be given a new housing policy. Yet they provided accommodation for many people, including the most deprived.

More Iranians deported

Another four Iranians, men, were deported yesterday. They left peacefully, 50 Iranian protesters were arrested during a demonstration outside the American Embassy. London last month have been sent back to Tehran.

Marlborough Street, where a demonstration was held yesterday, was closed for another Iranian student after finding him guilty of striking a policeman during the embassy protest. He, Majid Bahmanpour, aged 21, Dreyton Place, central London.

Correction

Wardsworth Council states it has not used up its entire allowance of job insulation grants issued in 1979-80. It has spent £20,000 of its allocation of £50,000 and has available a further £30,000 for grants to elderly people.

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HOME NEWS

Concern as prison deaths rise to 44 this year after second fatality at Leeds in three days

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office has been alerted to a sharp rise in prison deaths, with 44 recorded this year after a second fatality at Leeds in three days.

Mr. Neil Hemmings, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment, was found dead in his cell at Leeds Prison on September 11. He had been in the prison for three days and was the third in the prison system to die in the last 12 months.

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and nine deaths through other natural causes.

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National Health Service hospital had not been arranged.

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How soccer officials combat hooligans... and why they feel let down by the law

The clubs alone cannot be blamed for football violence

By Norman F. Football Correspondent

When Mr. William Whitely, the Home Secretary, observed last week's hooliganism at Oldham that sports organizers should put their houses in order, the keepers of football's better-known establishments may have viewed this as another platitudinous contribution along the familiar lines of "something must be done".

Much has been done, and though most clubs were slow to foresee the problems and at first reluctant to act, there is now a lobby calling for law to make a greater contribution.

orders all clubs to accept responsibility for crowd behaviour within their grounds. In fact some barely meet the minimum demands, but others go far beyond them.

Liverpool, albeit a club successful enough to keep crowds entertained, have extended their grounds beyond the Football Association's law 33a, which requires them to ensure the good conduct of crowds, players and officials at points of almost unlimited consequences.

As well as spending £500,000 on ground safety, including building a large pen for visiting supporters, they employ an "executive liaison officer", Mr. Jim Kennelick, who works with other clubs, British Rail, the supporters' clubs and the police in successfully ensuring the minimum fuss when Liverpool play away.

Liverpool found that the biggest difficulty for the police was being left under-strength after being given wrong estimates of upcoming crowds. In one instance, a club visiting Anfield suggested that about 2,500 supporters would travel,

whereas more than 10,000 arrived. Liverpool now co-operates with the visiting club and ensure that sufficient police are available to escort them to and from the ground and keep order there.

Mr. Kennelick said: "Liverpool first identified the problems in Europe. Two years ago we saw the possibility of oncoming events, I was appointed with the idea of monitoring movements of the fans here and abroad and reporting back."

His work has proved effective. He declares on Liverpool's behalf that they have "no trouble" from supporters who travel on official trains, supervised by the club and British Rail police. Other clubs say the same, but the headlines capturing hooligans generally move in independent groups, at Anfield, where two detention rooms see an average of only 10 detainees on average crowds of more than 40,000, a minimum of 70 police are on duty and anyone arrested appears before magistrates. This may seem to be normal procedure, but, at some

Mental health Act changes promised

Lucy Hodges

There is still a great deal to be done to achieve the objectives of the Mental Health Act 1959, which has been in force since 1959, said Mr. Patrick Kin, Secretary of State for Social Services, yesterday.

He said that he should have said to the House of Commons that the Act was a disaster, but that he was now determined to do all he could to improve it.

Mr. Kin's support for change, for psychiatric patients in the community rather than in large institutions, was clearly expressed in his speech.

He said that he was now determined to do all he could to improve it.

Airport night noise ban date may be advanced

By Arthur Read, Air Correspondent

The Government is considering a "banning" of aircraft at night from Heathrow and Gatwick, the two main London airports, sooner than had been planned after a three-year study of sleep disturbance among people living around the airports.

The intention to phase out by 1987 all night movements by noisy aircraft in favour of those with the new generation of quieter engines has been reaffirmed in the light of the study.



Catching the wind: Competitors practising yesterday for the first national freestyle and slalom sailboarding championship at Thorpe Park, Egham, Surrey, this weekend.

Visions of a new Venice on dockside wastelands

By Frances Gibb

A revitalized River Thames, with leaping salmon, humane-scale architecture, and boating lakes in place of derelict docklands was envisaged at a conference held in London yesterday.

That conception coincides with a Thamesday Festival today, at which thousands of Londoners, tourists, and visitors are expected to line the banks for a day of river trips and fireworks shows.

Teacher case talks agreed

Our Correspondent

A joint initiative, the of Mrs. Hilary Cross, who was dismissed by the county council for refusing to take a class of 40 under-11s, has been agreed.

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Rate bills are to be made simpler

By Our Local Government Correspondent

Ratepayers should be able to understand better the details of their council's expenditure, a future code of practice on rate demands issued by the Department of the Environment.

In brief

27 nurses reject pay increase

Nursing staff at a convalescent home at Silloth, Cumbria, have refused a wage rise in an attempt to save the home from closure.

Scientist accused of cruelty wants animals to choose

From Our Veterinary Correspondent

Some of the heat might be removed from the animal welfare debate if man let animals choose their environment, Dr. Barry Cross, director of the Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham, Cambridge, said yesterday.

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Crusader 80 peacetime test for TA

Our Correspondent

A further 5,573 men and 1,568 vehicles will leave tomorrow and 5,741 will arrive on Monday. By then, about 30,000 reinforcements, including 20,000 paratroopers of the TA, will have linked up with the 1st British Corps to take part in Spearhead, the final week-long battle phase of the exercise.

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ash helmet tester ailed again

By Hilary, aged 71, a retired teacher, who refused to wear a crash helmet when riding a motor cycle, was sent to prison for the second time yesterday after failing to pay fines for breaking the law.

Boycott sought on products of rare animals

By Tony Saunders

Harrods and Selfridges are among more than a hundred companies on an "endangered species" product list, being circulated by Friends of the Earth, the conservation group, in an attempt to organize a public boycott of British companies trading in products from crocodiles, turtles, or spotted cats.

Gardener grew cannabis plants in Hyde Park

By Stewart Tandler

A gardener working in Hyde Park, London, grew potted cannabis plants hidden in bushes in the park, it was alleged at Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday. The 73-year-old was discovered by police dogs searching for a child.

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Old Days Coming!
all things need winter
TIGERMOTH for
hand-knit
Shetland
striped play
suits, Pettie
Bateau T-shirts,
dangerous
coats, jeans,
socks and toys
everything
for children.
d 10p stamp for
Vogue or visit shops.
TIGERMOTH (73)
Pemberton Rd, W11 and at
Richmond Rd,
Kensham, Middlesex

Iron Age discovery
The remains of an Iron Age settlement, two Roman temples, and the early Christian structures have been discovered at a site at Witham, Essex.

BBC2 will teach English to immigrants
By Kenneth Gossling
BBC 2 is launching next month, at a cost of approaching £500,000, a series of 20 television programmes, each with two repeats, designed to help thousands of British residents whose first language is not English to make themselves more easily understood.
Entitled *Speak for Yourself*, it is the first project of its kind to be attempted on such a scale. The educational broadcaster will be watching the results with a view to setting up similar programmes. The programmes will start at 6.55 pm each Friday with repeats on Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be a follow-up telephone referral service operating for three hours after each programme ends.
By the time it begins on October 17 the series will have been two years in the planning; a production team has shown a test programme to more than a thousand people in sample audiences all over Britain.
Miss Jenny Le, education officer of the BBC's continuing education department, said that, apart from 200,000 people from the Asian subcontinent, there were many others, such as Latin-American catering

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Back to school? College? Evening Classes?
Here's an offer to make studying even easier!
Free chair
(Our current price £14.95) when you buy this Home Office
Free chair
This voucher entitles the holder to a free chair (value £14.95) when you buy an Executive Home Office desk (value £149.95) from the Home Office.
Britain's lowest price only
£59.95
FREE
THE PRICE BUSTERS
EASY TERMS AVAILABLE

OVERSEAS

Soviet block countries join in sending more aid to Poland

From Dessau, Trevisan
Warsaw, Sept. 12

Mr Stanislaw Kania, the new Polish leader, is expected to announce a new agreement with the Soviet Union to send the immediate needs of the Polish people, such as food, consumer goods, and industrial raw materials. East Germany has also stepped up supplies of consumer goods to Poland, and other countries of the Soviet block are expected to follow.

The Polish delegation headed by Mr Mieczyslaw Jagielski, the deputy Prime Minister, has ended a two-day visit to Moscow, during which the government for additional diversification of Soviet goods was agreed.

Mr Jagielski seems to have assured the Soviet leaders that the agreement which the Polish Government signed with a strikers was a necessary development. It would lead to more stable relations between the two countries, but a high foreign ministry official here said that the Soviet leadership, apart from a visiting apprehension lest a situation got out of hand, had shown full understanding of the Polish position. He assured the Polish Government that it considered the crisis to be an internal Polish matter.

There never was any real possibility that the Soviet intervention, he said. On the contrary, throughout the crisis,

Soviet leaders expressed confidence that the Polish authorities would be able to handle the situation and bring the conflict to a successful end.

Had the situation deteriorated, Poles would have found themselves in a catastrophic situation, he went on. But even then, there would have been no Soviet intervention. The implication is that the Polish authorities would have had to use force themselves.

In fact, the successful settlement which ended the conflict seems here as having wider implications. It is felt that it sets an example of how the most difficult and most dangerous crises can be overcome by patient negotiations rather than by conflict or the use of force.

This, applied on the international scale, the Poles say, would ease the dialogue between East and West, which is of particular importance now that the European security conference is soon to begin in Madrid. Poland has much to say specially on military détente.

Polish diplomats feel that as a result of the settlement reached with the workers, Poland's internal and foreign policies have gained credibility. The Polish are hoping that their experience will be beneficial to all the participants in Madrid. They make the point that if there is no interference from outside, people can resolve peacefully even the most difficult and dangerous of problems.



Turkey's new leaders include (from left) General Kenan Evren, who led the coup, General Sedat Celal, and General Tahsin Sahinkaya.

Coup leader pledges Turkey's continued loyalty to Nato

From Frederick Bonnair
Brussels, Sept. 12

In a personally delivered message early today General Kenan Evren, the Chief of the Turkish General Staff, pledged Turkey's continued loyalty to Nato, according to well-informed sources here.

The message and its timing were well received by the allies who had been increasingly worried about the chaotic political situation in this exposed but vital area on Nato's southern flank.

The long Turkish border with the Soviet Union is only one factor, Turkish possession of the

Dardanelles, the only exit from the Black Sea for Russian shipping, has long been a permanent irritation of the Soviet Union.

In Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the opposition leader, has declared his intention of taking his country out of Nato if he wins the next elections, and beyond Turkey, the revolutionary Iran and the culdron of the Middle East.

The massive economic and military aid from the allies in recent months, provided mainly by West Germany and the United States, is a sign of the importance the allies attach to this Nato partner.

Assurances were also given by General Evren that the allied military exercises planned to take place in Turkey shortly, which include the deployment of the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land), of which a British battalion is a part, will continue to take place as arranged.

EEC waits: There will be no automatic freezing of relations between the European Community and Turkey following the military takeover in Ankara, EEC Commission officials made clear in Brussels (Peter Norman writes).

But the coup will inevitably

stifle discussion on Turkey's wish to become a full member of the EEC, no doubt to the relief of the existing member states.

Not unexpected: The military takeover in Turkey was not altogether unexpected by the British Government, given the paralysis of the Turkish Parliament and the increasing violence of recent months (David Spanier, Our Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

The view in Whitehall is that there is no reason to fear that Turkey's commitment to the West and the Atlantic Alliance

will be weakened, although it is hoped that Turkey's difficulties will be sufficiently overcome to allow a return to a parliamentary democracy.

US sympathy: While pointing out that it was always concerned when any democratically elected government was ousted by the military, the United States Administration reacted with considerable sympathy towards the coup (David Cross writes from Washington).

A State Department spokesman pointed out that the country had been beset by growing terrorism and severe economic difficulties for months.

General who warned politicians on violence

Ankara, Sept. 12—General Kenan Evren, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff and leader of the Turkish coup, is a Korean War veteran who repeatedly warned politicians of the dangers of unchecked political violence and separatism.

General Evren, aged 62, is regarded as a modest man, respected by his subordinates for his willingness to listen. Many observers believe he led the coup-making "National Security Council" to avert a Putsch by factions of the army.

The general became commander of the First Army in 1951, then Army Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. He led a military mission to the Soviet Union in 1975, after the United States arms embargo over the invasion of Cyprus.

After the army commander quit in 1977, General Evren was appointed to the post, the normal stepping-stone to command of the armed forces.

In May this year he called for an end to the deadlock in Parliament over a successor to President Koruturk.

Two weeks ago General Evren issued another statement on the failure to elect a president and called on parliament to find a solution to the political turmoil and to lift martial law.

Neither Mr Demirel's government nor parliament acted, and early today the military moved its move.—Agence France-Press.

Concern in Warsaw over continuing wave of strikes

Our Correspondent
Warsaw, Sept. 12

The Polish strikes are not over yet. Every day reports of strikes come in from plants over the country where there are still outstanding demands or protesting because demands have not been met.

Kielce, for instance, ball-bearing plants went on strike the second time after news were informed that all joining the new independent unions, would not receive a 14th holiday allowance, a demanded wage increase compensation.

This shows that despite the Government's emphatic and repeated assurances that agreements will be fully implemented, many local officials are placing all kinds of obstacles in the way of the workers. Although scattered, the strikes are a serious worry to the leaders in Warsaw.

Mr Stanislaw Kania, the new leader, recently told party members that all the agreements will be carried out. But he also left no doubt that the party would do its utmost to prevent "anti-socialist elements" from infiltrating the new unions.

Dansk adviser talks in London

How the unthinkable became thinkable

Richard Davy

Mr Andrzej Wlodek, an oil economist and secretary of the Club of Catholic Bishops in Warsaw. He is one of a group of ten (most of the club's members) who, during the recent visit to the Government, accepted independent trade unions. The group helped the strikers get economic, social and political demands and also had a discussion with government experts.

London this week for a Catholic conference, Mr Wlodek told me that even here of his group had a difficult time at first to get the favour of the leaders of the party and among the strikers was a sort of "anti-socialist" element, he said.

He is now convinced that the union can in fact function within the system, and a major function if there is a popular consensus for it, which will initially be self-denial. But subsequent thinking will be required by the party and among people.

He most important factor in achieving political equilibrium and the start of economic reform will be the way the party apparatus gets increasing demands from society, he says. "Be of the success of the party there are going to be demands from peasants, workers and young people."

He suggests that the party now stop merely reacting to the initiative in taking to these demands. It is a demand for change, but it lacks confidence and credibility. It will have to go a mental change and offering something new, as seen evidence in the lives of some younger functionaries that this is impossible.

He thinks the party should play a role in the independent unions instead of resisting them. Some party officials were already supporting them. The new unions do not object to party members joining them, only to leading party officials taking leading roles.

He admits that if party members are to work within the independent unions without trying to take them over, there will have to be more democracy in the party. But he points out that it is impossible in Poland now to govern without the support of the party, and this support cannot be won without accepting the democratic unions which society now insists on.

At the same time there will be an obligation on the leaders of these unions to avoid involving themselves in politics by making ideological statements or, for instance, discussing foreign policy.

A particularly important task for the Government now, says Mr Wlodek, is to develop a new policy towards religion and the Church. He points out that about 80-90 per cent of industrial workers are believers, and that roughly two-thirds of party members among industrial workers are believers. The split loyalties of these members pose a serious dilemma for the party.

It is in the interests of the Polish state, he says, "to have an Italian-style solution by admitting philosophical pluralism within the party. If this is impossible within the Soviet block, the gravity of the crisis demands that relations between party and Church be abolished by ending atheistic propaganda, which is absurd."

The believers for their part must also behave with moderation and wisdom, he says, because there is a danger of reviving confessional politics. "We must be for a more pluralistic, democratic society, not for Church privileges, in order to avoid giving an explicitly religious character to political and social life."

Atollah's conditions for ease of hostages

ran, Sept. 12—Ayatollah Khomeini said the United States would be asked to return the hostages of the Shah, can be claims against Iran, need political and military intervention, Iran, the radio reported.

He did not demand any money from Washington for the release of the hostages, but a message to Muslims of the pilgrimage to the Ayatollah said the reaction of our nation to the hostage crisis in the US on our country.

He recalled that he had the decision on the but observers said the

parliament was unlikely to set different terms.

The students holding the hostages said the terms laid down by Ayatollah Khomeini would be the minimum condition of the Mojib. Asked whether, if the Mojib decided on the same conditions and the United States accepted them, the students would release the captives, a spokesman for him said: "Yes, of course."

Reuter.

Correction: The Afghan Government's payment to volunteers of about 7,000 afghanis a month to exploit tribal unity is equivalent to £72,000, as stated in a report on September 2.



PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA.

The United States is undergoing a profound crisis of confidence—a crisis from which the November election promises small relief.

The mood of America is a matter of vital importance to the rest of the world. That is why The Observer has despatched six of its top writers to assess the state of the nation.

This thought provoking series starts on the 14th of September and runs for six weeks in the Review Section.

Clive James in Washington. Washington is the political capital of the western world. But it's also a city with a rich life outside Congress and The White House; mingling high society and low gossip, thriving culture and mean streets.

Clive James, The Observer's award winning columnist, explores the town Middle America loves to hate.

Katharine Whitehorn. Are the Daughters of the Revolution still in revolt? When the Pilgrim Fathers set foot in America the first thing their mothers, wives and daughters did was to establish a sense of community.

Women's movements have flourished there ever since; but how are they adapting to more militant times? Katharine Whitehorn looks at organised womanhood in America, ancient and modern.

Martin Amis. Born Again U.S.A. America is still one of the most outwardly Christian countries in the world. Millions of Americans claim, like Jimmy Carter, to be born again.

Martin Amis considers the extraordinary

influence of Christianity in a country whose middle class traditions are built on the rock of public piety.

Anthony Holden on the campaign trail. This is the first American election for The Observer's highly acclaimed Washington correspondent. He reports on his impressions of the razzamataz, the huge costs involved, the propaganda war and the highly charged campaign atmosphere.

Hugh McIlvanney. Getting his kicks on Route 66. The Americans must be the largest nomadic tribe on earth. Their obsession with travelling has inspired writers, film-makers and every songwriter since the first blues singer.

Twenty-four hours from Tulsa, with Georgia on his mind, Hugh McIlvanney will be asking the way to San Jose.

Conor Cruise O'Brien. The State of the Nation. The United States is going through its worst recession since the Thirties. Foreign policy is in shreds. Military might is in doubt as seldom before. America is drifting into despair. But how do the intellectuals see it?

U.S. Universities have always played a larger political role than their British counterparts:—now Conor Cruise O'Brien visits the campuses of America and examines the thoughts and aspirations of the students and their mentors.

Who do the Americans think they are? Find out in The Observer's forthcoming series, starting on the 14th of September.

THE OBSERVER

OVERSEAS

Pastor tells South Korea court he was tortured

Seoul, Sept. 12.—A Presbyterian pastor said at a military trial of 24 leading South Korean dissidents today that his captors tortured him into making a confession.

Mr. Lee Rae Dong, accused of joining a communist-inspired plot led by Mr. Kim Dae Jung, a former presidential candidate, told the court that he was being prosecuted on the basis of a false statement extracted after he was beaten by his interrogators, foreign observers at the trial said.

"As a pastor, I am shameful to have made a false statement in the course of interrogation," they quoted him as saying. "But I was so badly beaten for days and said 'yes' where I should have said 'no'," he added.

The defendants face prison terms ranging from three to 20 years while Mr. Kim Dae Jung, South Korea's best-known opposition leader, could be hanged if found guilty of plotting to overthrow the Government.

Mr. Kim, aged 54, who lost the 1971 presidential election, was to be the last speaker at the 17-day trial, attended each day by official observers from the United States and Japan. South Korea's main allies who are concerned that the trial will worsen their already strained relations with the Seoul Government.

The defendants are victims of widespread purges conducted by the military-dominated Government, which has detained thousands of people.

The prosecution yesterday called for the death penalty for Mr. Kim but defence lawyers said the Government had extracted a forced confession from him.

He and the others face a variety of charges concerning his alleged involvement in fomenting a student uprising to overthrow the Government.

Mr. Kim has denied the charges. In a defence statement read to the court yesterday his lawyers insisted that he was a firm believer in democratic principles and that he opposed student demonstrations on the grounds that they provided an excuse to continue martial law.

Mr. Kim's fellow-accused include Christian leaders, university professors and former members of Parliament.

The Government-controlled press today gave prominent coverage to the prosecution's arguments, carrying the complete text of all the charges against Mr. Kim. Defence arguments were also published but only after military censors had deleted the most contentious points.—Reuters.

Objections raised in Tashkent to draft text that attacked Western policy and failed to mention Afghanistan intervention

From Michael Binyon, Tashkent, Sept. 12

A four-day conference of Soviet Muslims in Tashkent ended in confusion today without formally adopting any resolution after complaints by foreign participants that the Soviet draft was inadequate.

Leaders of the four religious boards responsible for Islam in the Soviet Union drew up a text devoted mainly to attacking the United States and the West. It condemned imperialism, Nato and American plans for a limited nuclear conflict, and accused the United States of sowing disintegration among Muslims.

It also called for the liberation of Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state. There was no mention of Afghanistan.

At the final session, a Kuwaiti delegate objected that no foreign guests had been consulted, and the draft represented only the Soviet viewpoint.

The influential political and religious leader of the Al-Ansar sect in Sudan, Mr. Sadiq al-Mahdi, in a clear reference to Afghanistan, proposed an amendment calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Muslim countries, non-interference in their internal affairs, and the dismantling of military bases abroad.

His amendment, which the embarrassed organizers first tried to prevent him from moving, also touched on questions sensitive in the Soviet Union, calling for equality and dignity of Muslim minorities in all countries, the

wide teaching of Arabic and the funding by the Muslim world of an international Muslim centre and mosque in Tashkent, the main city of Soviet Central Asia.

The meeting, clearly intended as the Soviet reply to the Islamabad Muslim summit in February, which condemned Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, officially marked the beginning of the fifteenth century since the Hujra, Muhammad's flight from Mecca to Medina. But less than half the 70 countries invited attended, and absences included some of the most important Muslim countries: Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Malaysia and Egypt.

The organizers listed 33 foreign delegates, many from countries with very small Muslim communities, such as Japan, Austria and Finland. Pakistan was represented by a single journalist, France by the editor of a Franco-Soviet propaganda journal.

In June, the Mecca-based World Islamic League called for a boycott of the Tashkent conference, in solidarity with Muslim insurgents fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, and many countries withdrew their acceptances.

For the Soviet organizers there were two clear aims: to refute charges that Soviet Muslims are oppressed, and to show that the Soviet Union is a better friend to Islam than the United States.

In his opening address, Mufid Zietudin Khan, Baskakhan, chairman of the Muslim Board for Central Asia and Kazakhstan and de facto leader of all Soviet Muslims, accused the bourgeois press of launching a "hysterical, anti-Soviet campaign" over Iran and Afghanistan.

The two newly-appointed heads of the Muslim Board for Azerbaijan and for European Russia, both of whom are in their early thirties, took up the theme.

The Afghan delegates themselves said nothing about this and spoke only on Islamic themes. Very little was said about Iran. Although the Russians strongly backed Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution at first, relations between the two countries are now very strained.

At a Muslim conference in Dushanbe last year, there was an embarrassing public criticism from Iran of Soviet policy in Afghanistan. This year, the organizers insisted that all speakers stick to written texts which had to be shown in their advance and several speakers were instructed to tone down their remarks on Afghanistan.

One senior foreign delegate said he had the feeling that he was taking part in "some kind of a show". But he said the psychological support for Soviet Muslims of his visit had made it worthwhile. "Many countries are now opening their Muslim files," he said. "The question is whether anything beneficial to the Muslim community in the Soviet Union can be built on this."

Between the conference sessions, there were visits to schools and mosques. Tashkent, a city of over two million, has only a handful of mosques, and in all countries there are only 200-300 mosques for a population of some 30 million Muslims.

A new copy of the Koran has just been published in Tashkent, but copies are hard to obtain, and one visitor said he intended to buy any Koran that he presented with here.

However, in a book throughout the city at literature condemning Islamic beliefs and customs is available, and from the most school education is with Islam.

Mr Zhao promises further political and economic reforms in China

Peking, Sept. 12.—Mr Zhao Ziyang, the new Chinese Prime Minister, has set the tone for his administration in a hard-hitting speech emphasizing continuity in foreign policy and further political and economic reforms at home.

Having put an end to a decade of turmoil, the Chinese people are resolved to turn China into a modernized, highly democratic and civilized socialist state," Mr Zhao said at a banquet for Mr. Robert Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister, last night.

Mr Zhao's appointment as Prime Minister in succession to Mr. Hua Guofeng, the Communist Party chairman, was approved on the final day of the 1980 session of the National People's Congress (parliament) on Wednesday.

Reiterating China's long-term

attitude towards the Soviet Union and Vietnam, he said their "invasion" of Afghanistan and Kampuchea were "important component parts of the hegemonists' global strategy for world domination."

On domestic affairs, Mr Zhao said the National People's Congress session "set a clear orientation for China's political and economic reforms." He added: "We shall promote socialist democracy, strengthen the socialist legal system, improve the leadership of our government at all levels, and enhance stability, unity and liveliness in the country as a whole."

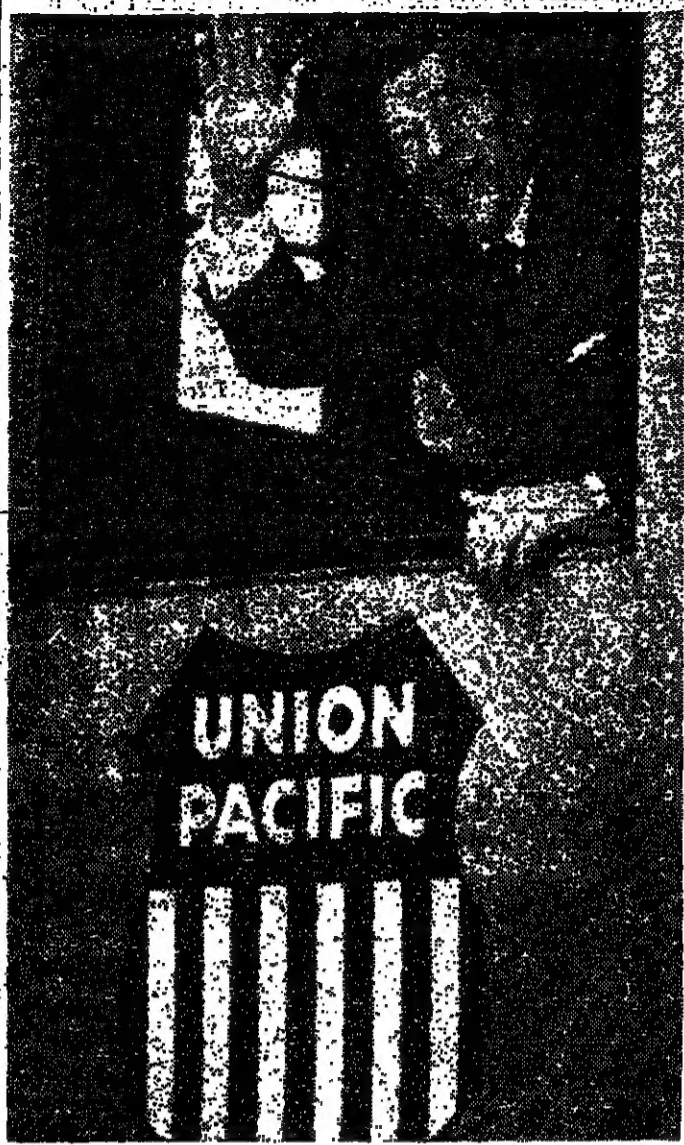
Mr Zhao, who pioneered a number of economic reforms in Sichuan province before joining the central government last April, said China should "rigorously expand the deci-

sion-making power of enterprises and the power of their workers and staff to participate in management."

At a meeting yesterday with a delegation from the Japan-China Association on Economy and Trade, Mr Zhao also outlined political reforms.

Mr Muldoon, the first foreign leader to meet Mr Zhao since he became Prime Minister, said after four hours of talks that Mr Zhao was a pragmatic man who knew exactly what he wanted to say and said it without ideological embellishments.

Reuters.



Mr Ronald Reagan on the Republican campaign trail, in a locomotive at Erie, Pennsylvania.

Canadian deadlock debated in private

By John Best, Ottawa, Sept. 12

Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and Canada's provincial premiers met behind closed doors today to try to salvage some kind of agreed package from this week's tough negotiations on the constitution.

After four days of full coverage on television and radio, the politicians, adjourned to Mr. Trudeau's private residence to sketch together a formula for bringing the constitution from Westminster to Canada.

The Prime Minister had his work cut out for him in seeking to engineer consensus after the long days of public bickering. However, there still seems to be some hope that in their private discussions the ministers will be able to forge an agreement on patriating the British North American Act of 1867—Canada's constitution, together with an amending formula.

The constitution remains domiciled in London because the Federal Government and the provinces despite 53 years of trying—have never been able to agree on procedures to bring it to Canada and amending once it has arrived.

Amendment is the crucial question, since it could affect the future federal-provincial power balance and the highly decentralized Canadian system.

Among the formulae on the table today was one where by an amendment would carry if the Federal Government plus two-thirds of the provinces, representing at least 50 per cent of Canada's population, supported it. However, the pro-

posal also includes a defined "opting out" to protect provinces affected by the amendment. Beyond the complex, non-amendment question of a share of rights, Mr. Trudeau wants in a constitution, also, a balance.

When the issue was publicly two days ago three provinces gave support to the Prime Minister. The rest were arguing that human rights should remain within the province of provincial powers.

There is an outside that Mr. Trudeau can get an entrenching of civil liberties and freedoms virtually as a group will broadening the concept human rights to linguistic freedoms and economic freedoms, Trudeau proposes.

Furthermore several provinces are reluctant to enter a kind of accord on patriation unless they satisfaction on questions to their own interests.

Mr. Brian Peck Newfoundlander has said he is a party that does not share his province jurisdiction of shore resources.

The premiers were set to resume public debates on tomorrow. If no agreement is reached, Mr. Trudeau has decided whether to use his earlier threat to unilaterally bring in a constitution.

20-ton haul of marijuana by US agents

From Our Correspondent, Los Angeles, Sept. 12

San Francisco agents seized 20 tons of marijuana, worth more than \$40m (about £16m) and two vessels, including a yacht used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Sixteen people were arrested, in what was called the largest single marijuana confiscation in the western United States.

Kenyan denial on bandits

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Sept. 12

MPs from Kenya's North-Eastern Province have issued a statement denying that people there support bandits who have entered the country from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Nine MPs, led by Sheikh Aden, the Assistant Minister for Industry, recently met President Moi to express concern about allegations in the press that ethnic Somalis in Kenya support Somalia's claims to Kenyan territory.

Relations between Kenya and Somalia have been tense since the 1960s, when Somalia sup-

ported a long guerrilla war in northern Kenya.

The MPs told a press conference that crimes being committed in the area are the work of fewer than 100 bandits.

They say the bandits support the Somali Salvation Front (which is supported by the Ethiopian Government and operates against the Somali regime), and the Western Somali Liberation Front (supported by Somalia and operating against Ethiopia in the Ogaden).

They said all Kenyans, including ethnic Somalis, suffer at the hands of the bandits and Kenyan Somalis do all they can to oppose them.

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Minister facing trial for murder addresses House

From Frederick Cleary, Salisbury, Sept. 12

In what must be an unprecedented situation in Commonwealth parliamentary history, a Government minister awaiting trial for murder took his seat here this week and made a speech.

Mr. Edgar Tekere, the Zimbabwe Minister of Manpower, Planning and Development, who goes on trial later this month accused of ordering a white farmer in August, walked into the House of Assembly in a battle-type uniform and spoke in the committee of supply on the vote for his ministry.

None of the 32 MPs present asked questions when the minister chairman put the vote up for discussion. But Mr. Tekere stood up to attack Zimbabwe's "evil yesterday" in the sphere of manpower utilisation and expressed pride in his newly created ministry.

Concluding his speech, which was heard in silence, he told the House: "Finally I think I owe an explanation to members here. I am standing before them as a man who has just come out of prison. I still belong to the State. I am a rogue. The day for reckoning is coming. Thank you."

Mr. Tekere sat down and there was silence when the chairman called for further debate. When the vote was approved Mr. Tekere rose and said:

"The minister is out on a £30,000 bail. A man was killed and nine people were injured when a grenade was thrown at a bus terminus beside a beerhall in the Chitungwiza African suburb near Salisbury last night. The injured people's condition was later said to be not serious."

Several thousand former Zania guerrillas owing allegiance to Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, are due to move into the suburb soon from the assembly camps scattered round the country. They are expected to bring their weapons with them.

Confrontation with Phalangists improves public image of the Lebanese Army

From Tewfik Mishawi, Beirut, Sept. 12

Lebanon's regular Muslim and Christian Army passed a difficult test to prove its impartiality this week when 400 troops, backed by tanks and field artillery, stormed the Christian-populated suburb of Hadath on the southern outskirts of the capital.

At least eight people, including two soldiers, were killed and more than 20 others wounded in two successive days of heavy fighting with militiamen of the right-wing Phalangists. Three ceasefires collapsed soon after they were arranged, and the fourth, hammered out last night, was still holding today.

But tension in the suburb is still running high. Hadath, with a population of

about 15,000, is one of the few Beirut suburbs around which the newly-built Lebanese Army has been ordered to gear for tactical fighting. Although part of the population is aligned to the powerful Phalangist group, many more sympathise or are loyal to its right-wing rivals, the National Liberal Party, led by former President, Camille Chamoun.

After the National Liberal Party's crippling defeat in a massive Phalangist assault on July 7, the Phalangists became the dominating force throughout the Christian-controlled areas north of Beirut.

Subsequent Phalangist efforts to win over National Liberal members led to an armed conflict in Hadath on August 1, in which Mr. Chamoun's son, Dany, was wounded.

The attempt to a univocal Beirut, this week's clashes with the Army occupied several Phalangist offices and took more prisoners.

The Army's det action to keep control improved its public image in two ways. It has helped the long-held impression the Army is powerless from the numerous armed private militia it has sprouted to Muslim and leftist chieftains. The Army is prejudiced favour of the Christian.

Mr. Badar Gemay Phalangist militia can has strongly attacked the Christian troops of stiff in Christian areas.

Ethiopian leader accuses US of preparing for war

From Addis Ababa, Sept. 12.—Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, severely criticized American foreign policy today, calling the recently completed United States-Somalia agreement on Berbera port a direct threat to Ethiopia and a prelude to renewed warfare in the Horn of Africa.

Speaking at celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of Ethiopia's Marxist revolution, he also accused the United States of edging the world closer to war by establishing military bases around the world, increasing defence spending, and failing to ratify the Salt-2 agreement with the Soviet Union.

"United States imperialism, under the banner of the 'Carter Doctrine', is currently in the midst of a frenzied preparation to plunge the world into a devastating war," he said.

Colonel Mengistu said American support of Somalia was tantamount to a United States-Somalia decision to jointly attack Ethiopia.

Big population rise in Africa: homelands

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Sept. 12

South Africa's population increased by five million, 27 per cent, to 23,771,970 between 1980 and 1985, according to the results of the official census taken earlier this year.

The figure excludes independent homelands of Bophuthatswana and Transkei, and the P. O. of the other black homelands, which had a population of 4,146,530 in 1970 and by 59 per cent in the years.

It was no doubt in line of the census figure Mr. Pieter Botha, 23 Minister, announced an important policy speech Transvaal National days ago that there was to homeland consolidation.

South Africa's white population is now estimated at 4,453,274 (a growth rate of 1.5 per cent a year); the population of the black homelands is 4,146,530 (2.5 per cent); the Asian population is 794,639 (2.4 per cent); the black population is 15,970,019 (2.5 per cent).

In terms of total population, the whites increased 1.5 per cent, Coloureds by 2.5 per cent, Asians by 2.5 per cent, blacks by 3.1 per cent, and the black homelands by 2.5 per cent. The number of white areas increased 13 per cent during the years.

The figures for the population of the ru show that in the Orange State it rose only 4 per cent, in the Cape Province 3 per cent, and Natal 2 per cent. The high growth rates were in the Transvaal, where the population rose 5.1 per cent.

Labour's uphill task at Australian polls

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne, Sept. 12

Now that Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, has announced that election day is October 18, a week earlier than generally expected, the pressure is on the Australian Labour Party to find a chink in the Government's armour within the short period of five weeks.

Although the main polls have been undecided of late, it is clear that Labour has a daunting task. To win, the party would have to take 25 seats from the Government in the House of Representatives.

There the Government has 85 seats, a majority of 43 over the Labour's 38. It seems likely that there will be some swing to Labour, which will hold all its seats, but victory looks remote.

Without a real issue, the economy will again have most influence, and there is justification for saying the Fraser Government has made progress, even though inflation and unemployment are still a thorn in its side.

Still, inflation has been brought down to about 11 per cent, which is impressive by Western standards.

But this price has been unemployment. Figures just released show that it is still increasing. The number of unemployed rose by 6,400 in August, bringing the total to 331,200 or 5.9 per cent of the work force.

With the disastrous economic mismanagement of the Whitlam years, still in the public memory, Labour is clearly going to have considerable difficulty convincing voters that it can handle the economy better than the Government.

So far, Labour has not pulled anything out of the hat and there is no sign that it will.

Saturday Review

The First Bayreuth

Dear Editor,

Well, here I am—keeping my promise and trying my hand at something new—writing a column. I am not a professional writer, but I am a fan of Wagner's music and I am sure that you will find my writing of interest. I am sure that you will find my writing of interest. I am sure that you will find my writing of interest.

Owing to his great shyness he does not want to attend the public performances. Wagner has been very kind in his letter, looking as if he will have to yield to his wishes in this matter. So I shall have to wait and see, but whatever happens, I am determined to see the dress rehearsal. I have not come all the way from Norway to let the opportunity pass me by without some struggle.

Grieg continues with his description of the theatre and its arrangements. He approves of the fact that the theatre is built in the amphitheatre style like Bayreuth. I would now like to get down to the subject of the sources Wagner has used for his Ring stories. He has used the Norse sagas, the Edda, and the Old Norse sagas. He has used the Norse sagas, the Edda, and the Old Norse sagas.

Wagner has taken the characters from the Norse sagas and the Edda and has given them a new life. He has given them a new life. He has given them a new life. He has given them a new life. He has given them a new life.

Yesterday, I came face to face with the great Wagner. I was in the audience and I was in the audience. I was in the audience and I was in the audience.

As I had feared, the King wished to be rid of any audience in the theatre and nobody, not even those closest to the composer, was allowed inside. But I was on my mark and slipped in with the orchestra. The orchestra pit was a complete world of its own—here I found that it was known to many of the celebrated musicians and was thus given a good seat from which I was able to see the action up above on the stage.

There are about 125 in the orchestra and what a wonderful array they all are. All of the very first rank. And with their magnificent fullness of tone each one sounds like two—so this orchestra could be taken for one of 200 ordinary players.

As they gather in the pit it comes to resemble a huge ant-hill of players and instruments. Then the conductor of genius, Hans Richter, comes to take his place. A silence falls on the pit—it is said the King is on his way—and then Wagner's voice roars out from the principal box "Begin!"

Now the celebrated prelude to Rheingold sets out on its 32 bars of B flat major, beginning on a pedal note of 32-foot organ, pedal, plus contrabass



by Edvard Grieg

tuba and string basses specially tuned down. It is impossible to imagine the depths of the waters of the Rhine portrayed to better effect than in this variable sea of tones—the greenest of green, one could call it. And then when the curtain falls the song of the Rhine-maidens adds to the effects of nature.

Wagner's special ability to describe scenes such as occur in Rheingold causes the spectator to be carried away by the effect; and to forget the lack of drama in them. Long dialogues such as the gods have cannot be consistently interesting; no matter how much the music suggests them, they still become quite tedious. Again, Wagner writes better for the giants and dwarfs than he does for the gods and goddesses—he does not have the elevated serenity and noble simplicity that the character of Wotan demands.

Returning to my lodging after the rehearsal I tell myself that, in spite of much there is to criticize, the indecisive characterisation of the gods, the endless modulations and wearying chromaticism of the harmonics and the end result of leaving the listener totally exhausted, this music drama is the creation of a great genius in the history of art, comparable in his innovation only to Michelangelo. In music there is nobody to approach Wagner.

That the rehearsal performance itself was outstanding I do not need to say to you—I shall describe all that later, after the scheduled performance. Today it is said that Wagner has persuaded the King that to have the theatre filled with people will greatly enhance the sound of the music and accordingly free tickets have been issued. Tonight is the dress rehearsal of Die Walküre. From what I know of this work I expect more of it than Rheingold—contains more life, more drama and more lyrical passages of great beauty; one can identify with Siegmund and Sieglinde largely because of the intense Wagner has created for them.

The love relationship between brother and sister seems to me to be normally quite wrong but that is how the myth tells it and Wagner has given us music of the greatest beauty to enlist our sympathy and overcome our objections.

And draw the curtains but Erda's mighty contralto voice pierces the thick walls. No wonder I am sitting here quite disconcerted.

To return to the Ring. As I have said, I expected the utmost of Walküre and when I tell you that I was not disappointed by it, that is to understate the case.

Grieg describes the rehearsal of Die Walküre; he found the action of the first act acceptable after all, on account of the glorious music, and in the Ride of the Valkyries there was, for him, a real ancient Nordic spirit. Wotan's Farewell moved him greatly and the use of the orchestra he found constantly fascinating. With Siegfried Grieg was less happy, but he was nevertheless intrigued by the music associated with Mime, and he makes an interesting observation on the ending of the first act.

Overjoyed with his success at forging the sword Siegfried splits the anvil with Neidung and the orchestra rejoices with a police band much like the scherzo of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, rewritten in a Wagnerian mode.

The second act is one of those endless dialogues that cannot help being tedious; the play is that the action is not of much interest and the words meaningless. Such dialogues embody the principles of Wagner's dramatic composition and he is always ready to defend them passionately—they do need a champion of genius for they have little to say for themselves. Even the music, I am sorry to say, cannot give form to these passages; for Wagner has overestimated his ability to underline and characterize the spoken word.

His dialogues are indeed put together like the long dialogues of Schiller or Goethe—with the difference that in the plays of these authors the listener can at least hear every word. Wagner's passages of dialogue, I have realized, were added at a late stage of composition and are lacking in real inspiration when compared with the scenes full of action which they link together.

I must not forget the wonderful nature music in this second act where Siegfried is in the forest listening to the song of the birds. The audience is held rapt too for never before has the atmosphere of the deep forest been so well captured; how unbelievably well done is the orchestration and how well it was played; it demonstrates just how the invisible orchestra can create an illusion. To compare Wagner's music to that of other composers is to do it injustice. Wagner's music is a world of its own.

of universal interest to an audience, for its psychological conflicts and moral values are, so to speak, part of every human being.

Wagner does not only let Siegfried, together with all who have betrayed him, die—but also the gods, who seem to have failed themselves. If they, in the first place, had not stolen the gold and later refused to return it, mankind would never have learned of its power and fallen under its curse.

There is no doubt that *Götterdämmerung* is the most effective of the dramas and the one which makes the most compelling action. In it all that has gone before is resolved and the fates of the gods and of men are fulfilled. The use of a chorus seems to involve all of mankind and what an effect it makes! By allowing the Rhine-maidens in the end to recover the gold Wagner underlines the message that, in the hands of man, it is a force for evil and injury. It further shows that *Der Ring des Nibelungen* is the only possible title for the cycle.

I cannot say that any part of the music is better than any other for it is all divinely composed and to pick out any one passage at random is to pick out a pearl.

I want to start by considering the opening scene with the three Norns where the orchestra spins out the rope of fate, for they play it as if they were weaving it.

I mention this because I think that the voice parts play only a secondary part in the Ring—the orchestra is all and of primary importance. Why then is it that Wagner does not make more use of the voices and why, when he does use them, do they not convey more of the text? The human voice must have an opportunity to express everything going on in the innermost soul of the character—failing which it should not be used at all.

It is a pity Wagner has not just put the concepts about the employment of the human voice because he does prevent his words becoming coherent and lucid—and thereby expressing his ideas properly. Beethoven was not the most accomplished writer for the voice but even so he chose to use them to heighten the climaxes in his music—who could possibly tolerate a performance of his Ninth Symphony without the vocal and choral parts? Nevertheless, I do not wish to disparage the work of Wagner—I merely express how it all appears to me.

It is the morals in the Ring that interest us and move us. Wagner's portrayal of these characters is more sympathetic than that of the gods. We identify with them from start to finish. I marvel at the difference in the portrayals of the two characters, Hagen and Siegfried. When Hagen summons his vassals I can detect, in this powerful music, a fundamental Nordic force and remember, I am now hearing it for the very first time, too. But most enchanting of all to me, is the song of the Rhine-maidens. And then there is Siegfried's Funeral March—I do not think there is anything to measure up to it other than Beethoven's *Eroica*. It is simply incredible.

My impression of the whole work is so great I can hardly express it properly—it is difficult for me to give you an overall view of the music so I will therefore relate only the events of the Festival, the audiences and the productions.

order. The heat is killing. But, as you will agree, now I have started the job I must proceed to finish it. I will now tell you about the fantastic Festival itself and the occasion of the first public performance of Rheingold.

The day is fine and the town all decorated with flags to welcome the German Kaiser who has just turned up; it appears his arrival is to crown the occasion, which was most not forget is the bringing forth of the first real drama festival since the days of the Greek tragedies, or so the Wagner fanatics would have it. King Ludwig, however, as everyone who knows him feared, has run away from all the tumult; this is odd since he himself invited the Kaiser to Bavaria.

Thank God that the performance is now to begin two hours later at seven o'clock instead of five; the heat in the Festspielhaus at that hour is impossible, it would have been like a Turkish bath. It is now just four o'clock and people have already started to walk up the hill to the theatre. To judge from their clothes there are people here from all social classes, the gentry in all their grand attire and jewels, young ladies in their finery, and hundreds of artists and musicians of all kinds, all united by the excitement of the unique occasion.

Everybody is in his place in the theatre. Suddenly a silence. The Kaiser has arrived. In comes one prince of the blood after another and, at the end, the Kaiser who greets his people in his warm human way, as he passes through them.

The performance begins. The theatre is hot and packed with people and this makes the tone of the orchestra subdued, compared with the rehearsals, and it also affects the pitch of some of the singers. But it is really wonderful. Of the singers the most impressive are Vogl as Loge and Schöller as Mime, who is actually applauded for his numbers, and not even Jaides' fantastic Erda receives such recognition.

Though I can tell the audience gets tired of the long monologues, when the curtain falls it is a riot of enthusiasm throughout the auditorium. People stand up to applaud and call for Wagner to appear, even the Kaiser is waiting for him, but the Kaiser is not to be seen. There are differing opinions about this episode—the Wagner fanatics say it is because he is annoyed with the technical staff for all the little mistakes that creep into the production; the others say that it is because Wagner, since his Munich days, has become used to taking his calls from the royal box and will not condescend to appear on the stage, something beneath an artist of his calibre. Well, I leave all that for the Germans to fight about. Yes, they actually do come to blows—in the local inns, and with beer-mugs for weapons (anybody being hit on the head with a "Tippfchen" is *hors-dé-combat*!).

If Wagner has been annoyed by the imperfect scene-changes and sloppy stage management then he has every right to be, for they all left a lot to be desired. Things like the rainbow on the wrong side of the stage and scene-changing so tardy that the orchestra had to slow down to match up with the action—these are hardly what the Master wanted. Considering the fact that Wagner and his circle have been publicly criticising performances elsewhere (performances generally liked and praised) it must be rather embarrassing for them to have such mistakes at Bayreuth.

Well, I think that, with exceptions such as Valhalla, which

looks more like a royal castle than the abode of the gods, these sets, on the whole, were good. Nevertheless, I had expected something more of this Rheingold performance—perhaps my trouble was that I had already been to the dress rehearsal of the Ring; Rheingold is, of course, a masterpiece but ought not to be seen immediately following *Götterdämmerung*. It is thus like comparing the Scottish Highlands with the Swiss Alps—even big things are diminished when compared with even greater ones.

15 August 1876

Wagner has arranged for placards to be put up to tell the audience not to interrupt the performance with applause while it is still under way as this spoils the balance and the continuity of the work. And here we go, once again, with the old factions and fresh rows and new beer-mug battles. Some say Wagner is jealous of Vogl's success last night and the rumour is that Wagner never appreciated his skills as a performer—if he had wanted to have no applause during the performances he should have sent out his "rules for conduct in the theatre" well before it all started, for he must have known people would break in with their appreciation.

The first night of *Die Walküre* was, in short, a success. Niemann as Siegmund was overwhelmingly good, so successful in combining his vocal and acting abilities on the stage that he represents the very best I have seen. Even in passages where Wagner relies on the orchestra alone to express the inner sense of the drama Niemann acts with conviction and sensibility.

Schöffsky as Sieglinde was convincing too although her acting ability is not to be compared with that of Niemann. Betz as Wotan was actually disappointing because expectations were high and the part so difficult to bring off. A funny sort of a god he is—so weak, so ready to yield to the provocations of his wife.

Even if Materna as Brünnhilde does not give as much as later in *Götterdämmerung*, she is, nevertheless, impressive vocally. Her cries of "Ho-jo-to-ho" were impeccable—faultless pitch in the difficult intervals and with flawless trills all the way through. The Ride of the Valkyries, one of the most inspired scenes Wagner has ever written, was quite realistic and overwhelmingly beautiful—I left the Festspielhaus feeling that I had witnessed the true genius of Richard Wagner.

17 August 1876

Today a few lines about Siegfried. The performance delayed one day because of the bass, Betz, who was creating trouble. Not that any of the audience grumbled about it for all of us needed the extra day's rest. Every performance is so exhausting emotionally that it leaves one quite worn out. The four o'clock starts and the late finishes are physically very tiring. In spite of the lengthy intervals—and these intervals are usually hard enough to get through, what with fighting to get out of the Festspielhaus and then fighting to get back in again, it is no easy struggle.

Once again it is Schöller as Mime who strikes me as a special sort of artist. He declaims more than he sings, which brings out the words of the text more distinctly. This is maybe the answer to music-drama. Unger as Siegfried is not much to talk about,

although he does not actually spoil anything. It is said Wagner chose him for his fine appearance rather than his talent and I dare say he regretted it afterwards. Betz as the Wanderer made a good impression as the god on earth, meddler with the mortals' destinies.

However, here again the stage properties jeopardize the drama by being so realistic; it is almost impossible to construct a dragon that does not look a bit ridiculous—and this one certainly did that. When Wagner puts so much emphasis on these properties and highlights them as he does, he poses some difficult problems; even if he has them constructed by the best people (in London the question remains why make them so realistic and so obvious?)

In, for example, Don Giovanni, a lot is left in the onlookers' imaginations instead of being openly displayed on the stage—this makes the audience use its imagination to create devil and demons within its own mind.

After every act there is tremendous applause, especially the second with its Forest Murmurs in which Wagner surpassed himself. He is, however, hard on his singers in the scenes for long periods and have to act out their part to the music of the orchestra alone—it always surprises me how well they manage it. Once again Materna sang Brünnhilde like a true goddess.

18 August 1876

Today Bayreuth has left off its festive garb. Many hundreds left the town last night and there is now a refreshing air of tranquillity about the place which will enable me to put the final touches to my last report on these memorable Festival days.

Yesterday's performance of *Götterdämmerung* made a great and profound impression—just as in the case of *Die Walküre* with its great uses of the forces of nature, so in the case of the final work of the Ring, so *Götterdämmerung* impresses by its tragic power and thus becomes equally moving.

I do not have anything to add to my previous report, on the dress rehearsal, the performance was, as a whole, on a very high level. The Brünnhilde of Materna, especially in the closing part of the work, was completely above any sort of criticism; Niering as Hagen had the character darkly and sharply drawn, as it should be, and Gura brought great depth and power to his part of Gunther. Such a melting ensemble as these Rhine-maidens is rarely to be encountered when they sang there were murmurs among the audience, a sign of the highest ecstasy. Siegfried's Funeral March and the stage procession that accompanied it made another indescribable and totally overwhelming impression.

When the final curtain came down, at the end of the last act, in which the Master had demonstrated his great creative abilities, I thought the theatre would come down too, so great was the outbreak of cheering! The whole house resounded with the call—Wagner! Finally, he came out in front of the curtain and gave his thanks for the ovation but, unfortunately, I could not hear what he had to say. The Kaiser, who was moved by the approval of his "friends" and the fine spirit of self-sacrifice of his fellow artists.

Then he said something like "Now we have shown you the way and now it is up to you, and your will, to decide if our future will have art." Words like these have again stirred up the passions—they were certainly not without self-esteem, but Wagner does deserve much credit.

Whatever the shortcomings of detail, one thing is certain—Wagner has created a great work, full of beautiful originality and dramatic merit. He has, in his new lively way, brought out old material, little known in Germany, and by means of his clever, musical-dramatic treatment has breathed new life into it. Many of these profound legends, for most people a closed book, will be opened up and made popular by Wagner's work—just like a child's picture-book, the eye comes to the assistance of the mind.

It may also be a good tonic for people nowadays, when parties and factions rule, to witness these great heroes and personalities with their strong passions, selfless actions and complete lives.

The ethical background that Wagner has given the material, one that is in harmony with current philosophies, may also be of importance for the future of the work, outside its own sphere of music theatre.

This may be whatever it will—the result of this occasion is boundless in its range. An important new chapter in the history of the arts has been written by Wagner. The thousands who have taken part in this Festival will be able to tell the world that German art at Bayreuth has celebrated a triumph that is unique of its kind.

© Robert Hartford 1980.
Translated from the original by Robert Hartford and Bente Marcussen. This extract is taken from Bayreuth: The Early Years, edited by Robert Hartford, which will be published by Victor Gollancz on October 23 at £12.50.

There are not many people whose lives I would love to live.



Sir Roland Penrose

took the TCA from 1947, also took the toll on his painting. "That was all part of a desire I had to encourage other people, and to open the eyes of the Palestine." Others involved were Herbert Butterfield, Peter Watson, Gregory and Lady Norton, all now dead.

Then, around 1952 the publisher Victor Gollancz asked him to write a definitive book on Picasso. "I thought he must know more than I had, but never written anything other than *The Road is Wider than Long*. Why he should think I could do it, I hardly odd, man that he was, I couldn't understand."

It was to take five years to write, but led to a parallel book of pictures of Picasso, called *Portrait of Picasso*, now republished by the museum of Modern Art in New York for its great Picasso exhibition, and, to the other monograph.

The year 1959 he spent in Paris for the British Council, helping boost the growing international reputation of British art, mainly with exhibitions brought over from the Venice Biennale, of such artists as Sutherland, Moore, Nash, Nicholson, Arman, and Chadwick, all in his home.

How different the British art scene was in the 1930s. With

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Radio

On location

It also has something to do with the Buchanan, but that bit passed me by in a cloud of exhaust.

A programme from, rather than merely about, Scotland provided some of the most enjoyable moments of the evening. The first was a song recorded for the first time to *Odyssey* (Radio 4).

This series, first transmitted by Radio Scotland, has been looking back at aspects of Scottish life in the earlier decades of this century. The week there was an account of what it was like to work in the Dundee jute industry, but Tuesday we hear about old-style herring fishing around Kintyre before the industry went into a steep decline.

Following this week's programme, *Mountain Men*, was told by half-a-dozen Glaswegians—all now in or past their sixties—who, during the depression, made their money by picking up walking and rock-climbing. Either they were on the dole or holding on for dear life to uncertain jobs, but at the week-end they had longed for the day when the money was the price of a return journey which took them miles from Glasgow and into the Highlands. There they collected a new and beautiful, often dangerous and there with the most rudimentary equipment or none at all, they set out to explore what it had to offer to the interests of perfectly plain men who had to say that the muscular strength which their experiences gave not only to their bodies but to their minds.

As so often happens when people are asked to talk about what they truly know and understand, the *Mountain Men* sensitively put together (in this case by Isabel Maclean), *Mountain Men* conveyed by voice alone—the songs, were

in my view, the expectation aroused by the billing was

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the project, which includes a brief history of the organization and a statement of its mission.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the project's objectives and goals, which are based on the findings of the initial research.

3. The third part of the report is a description of the project's methodology, which includes a discussion of the data collection methods and the analysis techniques used.

4. The fourth part of the report is a description of the project's results, which includes a discussion of the findings and the conclusions drawn from them.

5. The fifth part of the report is a discussion of the project's implications, which includes a discussion of the potential impact of the findings and the recommendations for future research.

6. The sixth part of the report is a conclusion, which summarizes the main findings of the project and provides a final statement of the project's significance.

7. The seventh part of the report is a list of references, which includes a list of the sources used in the project.

8. The eighth part of the report is an appendix, which includes a list of the data and other materials used in the project.

9. The ninth part of the report is a list of figures, which includes a list of the charts and graphs used in the project.

10. The tenth part of the report is a list of tables, which includes a list of the tables used in the project.



LIBERALS WAIT UPON EVENTS

A party leader has three principal tasks at the annual conference: to spark the enthusiasm of the followers, to give them a sense of direction, and to consolidate his or her own position. Mr David Steel is not an especially inspirational leader, but he won the approval of the Liberal Conference yesterday in particular with the vigour of his attack upon Mrs Thatcher and the fervour of his commitment to civil rights.

The most distinctive feature of his leadership, however, both in strength and in weakness, has been that he has consistently offered his party a definite strategy for a return to power. He believes that this is impossible unless the present mould of British politics is broken, and that the best chance of achieving this lies in co-operation with others who occupy the centre ground. This was the rationale behind the Liberal pact: it was designed to demonstrate that Liberals could form an effective partnership with others and thereby to encourage Labour's Social Democrats to split away from their party's left wing.

The same strategy now makes Mr Steel eager for a pact with Labour: disunity, or indeed Tory disunity, if there are any, would be intended as a prelude to the formation of a broader, unified centre party, whatever its title might be. He sees that for such a policy to be successful there would have to be some kind of electoral pact, as well as co-operation in a new

Parliament—because without an electoral pact there would be little prospect of any significant fourth party representation.

The strength of this strategy is that it offers the party a clear sense of direction. Mr Steel knows where he wants to go and he has definite ideas of how he is going to get there. The weakness is that his approach requires the use of tactics which are distasteful to many members of his party. He has upset them this week with his explicit references to an electoral pact. They are prepared to contemplate post-electoral co-operation, but they are opposed to any suggestion of Liberal candidates standing down in particular constituencies to give others a better chance.

In assessing this idea at this time, Mr Steel has run the risk of dividing his party without knowing whether it will ever have the opportunity of co-operating with any group that is worth the effort. He has failed to take a sufficient number of senior figures in the party with him. He has not thereby put his leadership in question, but he has weakened his personal position.

This was the trend of sentiment which he needed to correct yesterday. He did so by changing the direction of his remarks. He did not withdraw anything that he had said earlier in the week and there is no reason to believe that he has in any way modified his thinking. But he made no explicit reference to an electoral pact. He put the emphasis upon partnership after

an election, with the object of forming a Liberal-led government, and upon co-operation with others in general terms. Everything that he said was consistent both with an electoral pact and with a policy of urging fugitives from other parties actually to join the Liberals. It was, in other words, a calculated exercise in ambiguity.

In the circumstances that was justified, Mr Steel cannot know yet whether there will ever be a Social Democratic breakaway from the Labour Party that would stand a serious chance of winning sufficient support from the electorate as a separate group. Only if there is such a group would it be worth Mr Steel risking the internal conflict within the Liberal Party that would inevitably be provoked by any attempt to secure an electoral pact. Mr Jenkins and his friends do not come into that category. If they are the only potential allies available, Mr Steel would do better to persuade them to join the Liberal Party.

It is an unenviable position for any party when its fortunes depend principally upon the actions of others. That is how the Liberals are placed at this moment. Their future will be influenced more by what happens when Labour are in Blackpool in a fortnight's time than by anything that has occurred there this week. Mr Steel has therefore had to conduct a holding operation, which he did yesterday with a sensible degree of circumspection.

A PLEBISCITE WITHOUT AUTHORITY

Thursday's plebiscite in Chile, and the overwhelming recorded vote in support of the military regime's constitutional proposals, cannot be taken as a non-partisan expression of Chilean opinion. Like the plebiscite held in January, 1978, it was held in conditions in which opponents of the government's proposals were at an enormous disadvantage; and there was no sort of independent control of the polling procedures. Señor Eduardo Frei, for instance, the former President and a man who still enjoys considerable prestige in Chile, was allowed to make a public speech in which he called for rejection of the proposals, but he was not allowed access to television, and the media as a whole were overwhelmingly in support of the government. The political parties remained banned and authorities even went to the lengths of detaining more than 50 people who had been publicly calling for a "No" vote.

No-one would deny that there is a body of support in Chile for the military regime, partly because of memories of the mismanagement and shortages of the Allende regime which the armed forces overthrew in 1973, though many of those who originally welcomed the military coup have since become disillusioned. For these reasons, it is not surprising that the Chilean people have reacted to the regime's economic policy, and the government made a last-minute bid for their support with

a package of economic measures, including tax cuts, designed to appeal to the middle class. But a plebiscite carried out in these circumstances, with all sorts of pressures on anyone inclined to vote against the government, simply carries no weight at all.

At issue was a draft constitution, prepared exclusively by supporters of the regime, which is designed to institutionalize the present system of military rule, while offering at least a semblance of progress towards greater democracy. The constitution provides for the setting up of political parties in due course, as long as they do not advocate totalitarianism, violence or class struggle; and for the progressive introduction of congressional and presidential elections. But none of this will change anything for some time, since President Pinochet is empowered to stay in office for an eight-year transitional period beginning next year and will have the opportunity of standing for another eight-year term after that—though he said this week that he would not try for the second term. In any case strong powers are also vested in a national security council, dominated by representatives of the armed forces, and in the council of national bank for economic matters. Detailed provision is made for matters of national security and the role of the new Congress will be very limited.

The idea of a new constitution was pressed by the more open-minded members of the regime, who saw it as a way of at least setting a term to the present system, dominated as it is by President Pinochet, and of reducing hostility from abroad. The transitional period was designed to allow time for completing their programme of changes in social, economic and administrative matters. But the hardliners have had their say, they have succeeded in postponing the transitional period from the five years originally proposed, to eight, and the presidential term of office from six to eight. So the immediate upshot is the continuation for several years of President Pinochet's rule, marked as it has been by its particularly brutal repression.

Miss Claire Wilson's claims to having been tortured in Santiago indicate how little things have changed in Chile. Many others have certainly suffered in this way. Her case reinforces the doubts about the Government's wisdom in deciding to restore diplomatic relations with Chile, to ambassadorial level and to lift its arms embargo. It is understandable that the Conservatives should be drawn to Chile because of its espousal of monetarism, though, in different circumstances from those of this country, and because of its trade possibilities. But they appear to have been blind to, or heedless of, the reality of what was going on.

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY IS CRITICAL

anecdoting for the more financial early bargains of this rising pay round is already in progress, but the new current is not yet set in decisively. Yesterday's encouraging evidence from the retail price index should help to moderate the annual inflation rate. A 5.5 per cent still cannot be regarded as a fall, but it is likely to continue in coming months.

Many workers, of course, cannot count on an increase in line with inflation. Already last year's ruling preoccupation with a "going rate" was becoming lured in many cases by workers' concern not to jeopardize the financial position of the company on which their jobs depend. As news of more solvent and reduced redundancies in a similar reaction is likely to be more common this year, there have even been instances, in small, precariously placed companies, of workers prepared to take a cut in pay on the principle that a job is better than no job. There was an ironic juxtaposition in yesterday's news: Vauxhall's Luton workers decided in secret ballot to accept an eight per cent offer, while hospital engineers were rejecting 13 per cent. Most of the Vauxhall employees are already working only two days a week and the company's losses last year were £31m. The motor industry as a whole is the sector where the recession has been felt most sharply. Yet last month, shop stewards at British Leyland decided unanimously to make a claim for 20 per cent and union leaders at Ford (which has been surviving relatively well) drew up a claim amounting to substantially more. But it is not clear that they speak for those they represent. It was the BL shop stewards who tried unsuccessfully last year to secure rejection of an offer which brought most workers to more than eight per cent. At the other end of the scale, a 25 per cent claim to help their company, where nearly 12,000 men are on a two or three day week.

Anxiety of this kind scarcely affects the hospital engineers. The comparison emphasizes the crucial importance for the government of a realistic pay policy for its own employees (direct and indirect). The engineers are a small group; well-placed to cause disruption to the enterprise they

and/or subject requirements for entry into higher education on the ground that this leads to a distortion of the school curriculum. Indeed, their readiness to lay down the law to others in this respect is matched only by the hostility of their reaction to anyone who has the temerity to suggest that insisted parties outside the schools should have some control over what they do.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WARNER,
2 Farley Road,
Stoneygate,
Leicester,
September 11.

The Pope and England

From Mr C. A. F. Warner.
Sir: Peter Nichols (September 5) makes two points in his article on the Pope's visit to England and Wales which relate to members of

the Church of England. He says, "The Pope has still to show how deep his interest is in Anglicanism," and "an English contribution to Catholicism... means largely an insistence on a fair handling of the problems..."

The Pope's interest in Anglicanism would most movingly be shown if he requested to be taken to the Martyrs' Memorial at Oxford in memory of the martyrs of the Bishops' Conference and Ridley in 1555, there to lay a wreath, as he did for Jewish victims of persecution in Poland.

His fair handling of the problems would involve the release from the Vatican library of any documents relating to the English Reformation.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. F. WARNER,
11 Blandford Gardens,
Wolverhampton,
September 2.

Sale of arms to Chile

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall, North (Labour).

Sir, You published a letter from me on August 11 in which I expressed strong opposition to the lifting of the arms embargo to Chile in view of the obvious repressive nature of the military dictatorship and the wide use of torture there.

The case of Miss Claire Wilson and her friend which has since come to light (report, September 11) should surely leave the Government in no doubt that the selling of arms to the junta is totally unacceptable to British opinion.

Mr Ridley, the Foreign Office minister, said this week that the position had improved in Chile up to six weeks ago when an assassination had occurred; yet it was the same Mr Ridley who replying to a parliamentary question earlier this year stated that the Government had shown its concern over the lack of improvement in the human rights position in Chile by voting for a critical United Nations resolution on the subject.

Perhaps the Prime Minister could secure if her Administration will accept the Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence on March 10 in the Lords, when he said that the Government would not export arms to a country which is guilty of torture or to repressive regimes; that is quite clear policy, he added. Indeed it is quite clear, but how long selling arms to Pinochet fit into a policy?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons.

The Old Vic 'Macbeth'

From Mrs Alexandra Whitfield.

Sir, If no one better qualified comes to the support of Mr Timothy Wessely you can find space for this letter.

To describe his interview about the Old Vic production of *Macbeth* as a despicable act of artistic betrayal (letter, September 6) is surely manifest nonsense. The only artistic betrayal would have been for Mr West to pretend he was in sympathy with the production. I suspect Mr Bryan Forbes may prove wrong when he talks about it as "a piece of commercial folly." Charisma (and who is more "charismatic" than Peter O'Toole?) and controversy have a pretty strong box office appeal.

The person whose media appearance did surprise and mislead me was Mr Forbes himself when arriving at the stage door the night after the reviews and being questioned by reporters, he said, with an air of conscious virtue, that they need not expect he was going to run the cast down after all, they had worked hard and were doing their best; thus implying that if anything might be at fault it was the critics—not the production for which he was responsible.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXANDRA WHITFIELD,
1 Dry Hill Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent.

Welsh television

From the Reverend D. G. Richards.

Sir, Setting aside the morality of broken promises, one must ask which is to be the cheaper in the long run—financing the broadcasting of Welsh programmes on one channel or financing the combat of public disorder which will arise and last several years if the Government does not change its mind.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. RICHARDS,
The Vicarage,
Arthog,
Merioneth.

Missing the point

From Mr Simon Cave.

Sir, Mr Hourmouziou (September 6) asks what has become of breast-pocket handkerchiefs. Well, in these days of figure-hugging jeans, ladies have nowhere to keep handkerchiefs. So, in times of need, handkerchiefs or scarves have to help out.

Generous proffering of one's ordinary handkerchief produces cries of "No, not that one; haven't you got a clean one?" I used to have several; that's where they're all gone.

Yours etc,
SIMON CAVE,
3 Model Cottages,
East Sheen, SW14.

Mind and its policies

From Professor Sir Martin Roth.

Sir, Those who have experience of the field of mental health will know of the valuable and sensitive work which has been done and is being done by Mind and its numerous local branches. However, some of the recent activities of the staff at the mental health unit in hospital, the area health authority presided by Mind to look into the matter concluded that the allegations of harsh and inhumane treatment levelled against the director of the unit, were devoid of substance. This did not deter Mind from immediately issuing an account which was a misleading statement to the press which vilified the distinguished psychiatrist in question.

My point is not merely that such charges have been shown to have little or no basis in fact. Abuse does exist, do come to light and should be corrected. It is the insensitive method of procedure and the lack of a scrupulous and disinterested reading of the evidence that is objectionable.

The broadest issue is this: medical and psychiatric practice are based on trust and consent, given that special arrangements are made by the law for cases where consent is impaired. Trust is indispensable in psychiatry. It has been successfully built up over the years coinciding with advances in knowledge and improvement in care and treatment. Mind appears to be favouring a system of professional relationships analogous to the adversarial arrangements made in legal actions. The benefits of such a policy which would erode confidence and good will all round are

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain's economic policy abroad

From the Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Sir, Sir John Wilton's challenge (September 5) to the "pundits of Chatham House" finds them unanimous that they have been misunderstood. We are not so dull at this institute as to ignore the intensive efforts now made by the Diplomatic Service to help British businessmen export to the countries to which they are accredited. A number of recent Chatham House publications have recognized and discussed this, the latest being Mr Valerie York's policy paper, *The Gulf in the 1980s*, which, as a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sir John may have read.

What the members of our Policy Studies Unit had in mind in their implied criticism of the foreign policy machine was something altogether more fundamental—namely the way in which the United Kingdom's external economic policy is made. There is an opinion, widespread among those in this building who have studied the matter and accurately reflected in Mr Peter Hennessy's admirable article about us (September 2) that present arrangements are defective in this field.

As Sir John Wilton implies, the field is in fact more like a jungle, and is inhabited by a wide variety of fauna, some carnivorous, others not. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Department of Industry, the Ministry of Trade, the Department of Energy, and the Ministry of Agriculture all have corners of it, while other corners are the political parties, the IUC, the CBI, and Chatham House can occasionally be glimpsed swinging from branch to branch as best they can. The Treasury is undoubtedly the king of these beasts, being strong enough to invade the territory of all the others and to prevent their invading its own; but it lacks the power, or indeed the inclination, to coordinate the various activities.

Two questions arise from this situation. The first is whether the FCO, which is responsible for co-ordinating the broad political consequences of our external economic actions, makes a sufficiently effective contribution to the formulation of economic policy. Several examples from the last two or three years—including decisions about the European monetary system, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and our general economic relations

with the Third World, exchange and interest rate policy, and a number of others—suggest that it does not, and that in consequence, the Whitehall debate has been too narrowly based. The FCO has competent economists of its own, but they are seldom consulted to confront the full complexity of the Treasury, even on a narrow front. At the same time, there seems to be a psychological inhibition in Foreign Office ministers and senior officials which prevents them from pressing home a purely political case, such as points to economic arguments, even on crucial EEC matters, where the coordinating role of the FCO used to be stronger than it is now.

This is no doubt due in part to particular personalities as well as to some hallowed conventions of Whitehall infighting. But the second question which arises here is whether the present machinery of government is sufficiently tuned to international conditions in which political and economic issues are so unprecedentedly and intensely intertwined. It is clear that EEC matters are reasonably well coordinated, with a sub-committee (chaired by the Foreign Secretary) of the Overseas Policy Committee of the Cabinet in charge. There is also a section of the Cabinet Secretariat permanently devoted to this task. But even on Europe the Treasury, it seems, still effectively reserves some topics to itself. On a large range of other external economic questions outside the EEC there are either ad hoc sub-committees or none at all.

It may be that if this machinery were exposed to public, or even academic, gaze (which, except when Mr Hennessy turns his attention to it, it is not), the verdict would be that it is as good as can be devised without the huge proliferation of Cabinet committees and subcommittees which flourished under the last Government, and which were required of students in this institute, who are constantly reminded that these matters are handled in a more systematic and apparently more effective fashion in other countries, must be allowed to have their doubts.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WATT,
Director,
The Royal Institute of International Affairs,
Chatham House,
10 St James's Square, SW1,
September 10.

Football violence

From Mr Fritz Spiegel.

Sir, It is hardly surprising that the National Union of Licensed Victuallers (report, September 10) welcomes a ban on the sale of alcohol in the bars of football grounds. Here, in a bar, the grounds are well-nigh surrounded by pubs, which do a roaring trade between opening-time and kick-off. Hooligans are well tanked-up before they even enter the stadium.

Surely, the Saturday afternoon match is an unwholesome, going back to the five-and-a-half day week. A morning or mid-day game would solve much of the alcohol-based hooligan problem (and much of the rest by enforcing an all-teams law, thus removing the territorial aggression induced by jostling and crowding).

Those home-supporters lucky enough to have a five-day job may have their Saturday "lie-in", and, with luck, no stomach- and certainly little head-ache, even, in the match, heavy drinking. Visitors would have to make an early start, thus incidentally helping to spread the weekend traffic load.

Liverpool matches always have an early kick-off on Grand National days. The difference in crowd behaviour is always astonishing.

Yours etc,
FRITZ SPIEGEL,
4 Windermere Terrace,
Liverpool L8,
September 10.

Footnote to Rabelais

From Dr P. J. Bayley.

Sir, Garry O'Connor's handsome birthday tribute to Jean-Louis Barraud (September 6) prompts me to add a cautionary footnote to the history of *Rabelais*. The play becomes part of the fast-crystallizing mythology of May 1968, and its significance as a cultural watershed.

However much it may be representing a turning-point in Barraud's own career, the idea of adapting Rabelais's text for the stage had already been conceived and implemented earlier that year by an amateur group of students actors from the Lycée Normand Supérieur in the Rue d'Ulm under the direction of a *normalien* called, if I remember correctly, Jacques Nichet. The fact that one of their thought-

Nuclear industry and the public

From the General Secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association.

Sir, I think that your editorial in today's issue ("Dourney disclosures", September 11) is a fair one. The nuclear industry does have to run itself as an open book to demonstrate to the public that they can have confidence in the way it handles its affairs, and very quickly.

There are however some aspects of this to which I could perhaps draw your attention. First, the industry has yet to fully acclimatise itself to this situation. It is run overwhelmingly by engineers and scientists who know their job and whose training is to get on with things, rather than to talk about them. They are not at home in the field of public relations. There is no question but that this is a defect which the industry has to remedy, and very quickly.

There is equally however a responsibility on the media. It is overlooked that one of the important recommendations of the Kennedy report was that the media should ensure that journalists who handle the affairs of the nuclear industry should be equipped to understand the technology and the issues about which they are reporting. Equally it is incumbent on the media to deal with such a major industry fairly. There was no sense of fairness in the cheap journalistic treatment of the Kennedy report by the media by its failure to communicate properly with the public, since they do not know how to come with it. The industry should be helped by the media to communicate freely, not the reverse.

Lastly, I am sure it would help everyone if other major industries handling hazardous materials or processes were also required to publicise every incident, however trivial, as the nuclear industry is now required to do. (I am not incidentally suggesting that Dourney's inability to account for two missing fuel elements was trivial.) If, for example, the chemical, oil, gas, coal mining, and transport industries, to name just a few, were put on the same footing as the nuclear industry, the public would get much clearer ideas of the relative risks associated with these different technologies and the nuclear industry would not feel that it was being singled out for attack.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LYONS,
Engineers' and Managers' Association,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey,
Surrey.
September 11.

Effects of aid for Poland
From Mr Anthony Rudd.
Sir, I would not be as hopeful as your correspondent, Zbigniew Mieczkowski, is in his letter to you today (September 5) that the willingness on the part of the West to help Poland economically will lead to détente between East and West. In fact, I fear that the reverse may be the case.

Poland's economy is indeed already very heavily dependent upon the willingness of the West to go on providing credits for its ailing industries. The withdrawal of such credits would undoubtedly lead to complete collapse. It may be the case that further substantial financial aid will be necessary if serious difficulties are to be avoided.

However, this dependence undoubtedly puts the Polish Government in a position of some delicacy. This is why the economic link with Russia was heavily stressed in the Government's statement earlier this week. Clearly Poland cannot be entirely dependent on the West and must be entirely welcome to the Kremlin.

It is to be remembered that when Marshall aid was first offered and the Czechoslovakian Government showed interest, the withdrawal of the proffered assistance, Moscow countermanded the tentative move which in consequence was immediately abandoned by the Czechs. This was one of the events which led to that nation behind the iron curtain.

The paradox of Poland's position, namely its economic dependence on the West and its continuing political dependence on the East, has yet to be resolved.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY RUDD,
Rowe Rudd and Company,
63 London Wall, EC2,
September 5.

Thoughts for your penny

From the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Sir, We are reviewing the pricing policy for its publications—as suggested by your correspondent Mr Claydon (September 6)—HMSO is obliged to take account of the requirement laid upon it to cover its costs.

Publications of narrow interest, like the Serpentine canoe race report, are never going to be best-sellers and pricing them as if they were could only lead to heavy losses that the taxpayer would have to underwrite. The best that HMSO can do is to keep a tight rein on the costs of production and distribution.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD M. THIMONT,
Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
Sovereign House,
Boltin Street,
Norwich,
September 11.

Person to person

From Mr P. H. May.

Sir, We stand in imminent personal danger. After suffering, during the past few years, Chairperson, Handyperson, Person Friday and a host of others, I have today seen an advertisement for a Parts Person. Merely, it is not specified whether the parts required are public or private in the name of God (or should I say Heaven Person?), cannot we have an end of this nonsense? I am, Sir, Yours personally,
PETER H. MAY,
128 Queen's Road,
Wimbledon, SW20,
September 11.

SPORT
Racing

Water Mill can give Hern's wheel of success another turn

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

The rank outsider, Try Sandi, was withdrawn from the St Leger yesterday, which means there will now be only seven runners for the fifth and final classic of the season at Doncaster today. Although this is the smallest turn-out since the war, it is still on a par with the fields of 1983 and 1972.

No-one knows more about the art of training a horse to win this particular classic than Dick Hern, who won it first in 1963 with Hetherston, again, three years later, with Provoked, a third time in 1974 with Bustino, and most recently in 1977 with Dunfermline. Today, Hern will be saddling the hot favourite, Water Mill, who appears to have an outstanding chance of continuing his amazing run of four wins in the race, but throughout this season.

If Water Mill is successful, he will become the first horse to win a classic in England wearing blinkers since Abey was awarded the Derby in 1913 on the disqualification of Crispin O'Connell. Water Mill will also become the first horse to win four classics in a season since Lester Piggott achieved that feat in 1955, when he won the Oaks, the St Leger, the 1000 Guineas and the 2000 Guineas.

Water Mill has looked a better horse since being equipped with blinkers, just as his older brother, Homage, did two years ago when he excelled in the autumn. At Goodwood last month, Water Mill showed an impressive turn of foot to leave older horses struggling in the final stages of the race. He was ridden by the 10-year-old jockey, Michael Stoute, who has won the St Leger with Water Mill in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977.

Water Mill's last win was in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket, where he was ridden by Michael Stoute, who has won the St Leger with Water Mill in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977. Water Mill's last win was in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket, where he was ridden by Michael Stoute, who has won the St Leger with Water Mill in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977.

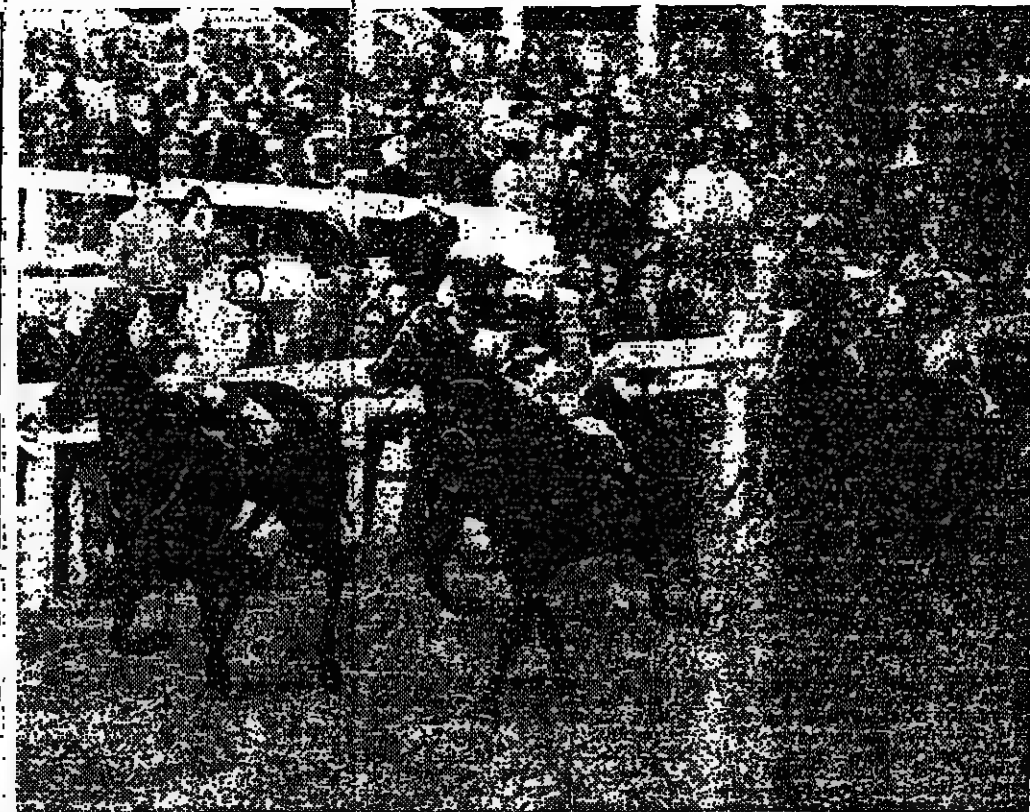
to the point, I am banking on Water Mill's proven speed winning the argument, even over this distance. Saviour will be bidding to improve his family's remarkable record in classic races. His full brother, Julio Mariner, won his race two seasons ago; his full sister, Juliette Mariner, won the Oaks in 1975, and his half sister, Scintillate, took the Oaks last year.

Saviour's owner and breeder, James Morrison, is banking on blinkers, which his colt will be wearing for the first time in public, having the same electric effect on him that they had on Juliette Mariner. If they do, Saviour could be a good bet to finish in the first three.

Twelve months ago, French horses finished first and second in the race, but there is a two-pronged Gallic challenge again this afternoon. Lancastrian boasts better form than Grandeur, but smart horses that he is, Lancastrian is no better than Water Mill, and there must be a doubt on breeding about him. Lancastrian is a half brother to that good filly, Clasp, who excelled at a mile and a quarter by another horse who did likewise, Reform.

Michael Stoute's last filly, Marwood, failed to become the sixth member of her sex to win the Flying Childers Stakes in 10 years. Marwood was never off, a light rain at York, where she gave another of today's runners, Welshwyn, 7 lb and an excessively smooth beating in the final stages of the race.

Even Piggott rose on occasions only a rank outsider. But, being the realist that he is, he is only too well aware of the fact that Water Mill will need to put his hunch in the hands of the jockey, Michael Stoute, who has won the St Leger with Water Mill in 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977.



In the white: Swelter keeps her lead to win the Portland Handicap.

Swelter rests after fourth win

Swelter lived up to her name in the featured William Hill Portland Handicap at Doncaster yesterday, setting a blistering pace throughout and battling on to score by a fast diminishing neck over the 1 1/4 mile.

Swelter's fourth consecutive win and her trainer, Frankie Durr, said that Swelter had now earned a rest. Swelter was owned by Geoffrey Greenwood.

"I will run Pink Blues in the 1000 Guineas next Friday and Philip Robinson will ride," he said. In 1974, Durr picked up the race as a jockey on Madras after a Turn Key's disqualification. Antipater was the subject of a substantial family feud, but came in ninth after falling to run on the last two furlongs.

The Durr and Robinson combination went on to complete a 66-1 double when Eching beat odds-on and disappointing Antipater on October 4, and will then return to the track in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket on October 11.

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Strong challenge for French in Arc trials

Ernie Desmond Smithham
French Racing Correspondent

Paris, Sept. 12

The Longchamp programme on Sunday is one of the finest of the year. By the end of the day a considerable quantity of high-class racing will have taken place.

The Arc de Triomphe picture as three of Sunday's races are trials for the famous autumn event and all will be run over the same testing one and a half miles. There are eight foreign-trained horses challenging for the valuable prize, and I expect some of these to take the main event.

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Renaults just beat Jones to pole position

By John Blunden

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Doncaster programme

(Television: (ITV) 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30)

1.30 BATTLE OF BRITAIN HANDICAP (17.95; 7f)
2.00 FLYING CHILDERS STAKES (Group II; 2yo-9; 11.874; 5f)
2.30 HOLSTEN FILLS HANDICAP (17.07; 1m 2f 50yd)

3.05 ST. LEGER STAKES (Group I; 17.1256; 1m 6f 127yd)
3.35 HEATSEAL STAKES (3yo fillies; 22.918; 7f)
3.55 JOHN KENT HANDICAP (3yo-9; 22.965; 11m)

4.05 INKPEN HANDICAP (18.98; 6f)
4.35 JOHN KENT HANDICAP (3yo-9; 22.965; 11m)
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Goodwood programme

(Television: (BBC1) 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0)

2.0 CROWN PLUS TWO HANDICAP (Round 10; 10f)
2.30 PLANTATION STAKES (2yo-9; 11.874; 5f)
3.05 ST. LEGER STAKES (Group I; 17.1256; 1m 6f 127yd)

3.35 HEATSEAL STAKES (3yo fillies; 22.918; 7f)
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4.05 INKPEN HANDICAP (18.98; 6f)

Chepstow programme

(Television: (ITV) 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45)

1.45 CLOVER STAKES (Div I; 2yo-9; 11.874; 5f)
2.15 TOP RANK STAKES (Ladies; 11.080; 11m)
2.45 TOP RANK CLUB HANDICAP (11.931; 11m)

3.15 HEATHER STAKES (Selling; 2yo-9; 11.874; 5f)
3.45 JOHN KENT HANDICAP (3yo-9; 22.965; 11m)
4.05 INKPEN HANDICAP (18.98; 6f)

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Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

IMI
Industrial Machinery
Imports Ltd.
200 Limited, Birmingham, England

Stock Markets
FT Ind 508.9, up 5.9
FT Gilt 70.84, up 0.06

Sterling
\$2.4145 up 20 pps
Index 76.2 unchanged

Dollar
Index 83.2 down 0.1
DM 1.7798 up 43 pps

Gold
\$687.50 up 56

Money
3 mth Sterling 15 1/8
3 month Euro \$ 11 1/4
6 month Euro \$ 12 1/4

IN BRIT

Thorn EMI shares hit after profits warning

A warning was given yesterday by Sir Richard Cave, chairman of Thorn EMI, that profits for the six months to September 30 would be much lower than for the same period last year. The statement knocked off the shares to 362p.

The electrical group, which owned a 25.5% stake in the car company, said that a turnover of £162m, a rise of 6 per cent, was hit by poor trading conditions. Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 were £14.4m, a fall from £14.4m a year earlier.

Turkey's debts
Turkey's plans for rescheduling around \$3,000m (about £500m) of commercial debt, almost certainly delayed, as the military takeover there is today, senior bankers in London say.

GB lives on
The MG Owners Club, in conjunction with the MG Car Company, is to launch a new MG model, the MG MGB, in the autumn. The car will cost between £100 and £150.

Power station protest
Mr. Tom Crisp, national secretary for power and energy, said that the Government's policy of building new power stations was "a disaster" and that the country was "in a state of emergency".

Quidians soar
Department of Trade and Industry figures yesterday show the average number of quidians, or small business failures, during each of the six months ending in August at 600. This compares with 500 for the same period last year.

in data system
The Ministry of Defence has ordered a new data system for its military equipment. The system will provide a faster and more efficient service for the armed forces.

erian resignation
Gerald F. R. Cooper, the former Minister of State for Africa, has resigned his position. He has been succeeded by Mr. John Gifford.

in hostel contract
Alfred McAlpine & Son has won a £4m contract from the Ministry of Defence to build a hostel at Rotherham, Yorkshire.

stralian gold rush
Gold mining is reported from the north-east of Perth, Western Australia. The mine is owned by the Perth Goldfields Ltd.

ill Street lower
The Dow Jones industrial average fell by 47.8 points to 2,245.12 yesterday. The FTSE 100 fell by 13.21 to 3,218.7.

Mrs Thatcher rejects CBI plea for change in money policies

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

While Sir Raymond Pennock, president of the Confederation of British Industry, received a "friendly" and sympathetic hearing from the Prime Minister yesterday, she is understood to have won no promises of any relaxation in government economic policies.

Sir Raymond is urging the Government to cut interest rates and implement other measures to help manufacturers who have been affected by the recession. However, Mrs Thatcher is believed to have insisted that a tough approach to monetary control must be maintained.

A full report of the meeting with Mrs Thatcher is expected to be given by Sir Raymond to the CBI's policy-making council next Wednesday. It is becoming apparent that many industrialists are increasingly unhappy about the Government's policy on money control, which they regard as unnecessarily rigid.

Industrialists' criticisms of the Government have been muted until now, but there are signs that there may be open rebellion as the CBI's national conference in November, when there is some easing by then. From more than 100 resolutions which have already been submitted for debate, it is clear that the economic situation is

causing widespread concern. Topics which member companies, employers' organisations, trade associations, and chambers of commerce have indicated they want to discuss include the strength of sterling, energy costs, public expenditure and government aid as well as high interest rates.

The CBI's newly appointed director general, Sir Terence Beckett (who was not present at yesterday's meeting with Mrs Thatcher) will speak at the conference, while Sir Raymond will make the opening keynote speech.

Apart from spelling out the impact of high interest rates and high sterling exchange rates on industry, Sir Raymond is believed to have pleaded with the Prime Minister to bring public spending under control.

He is also believed to have pressed the CBI's case for the abolition of national insurance surcharges which the employers regard as a tax on jobs which industry could do without. The Prime Minister, however, is understood to have re-emphasised that the Government's main priority must be a reduction in inflation levels.

Her argument that current policies are starting to produce results and must continue was reinforced by yesterday's reduction in the retail price index, announced a few hours before her meeting with Sir Raymond.

Confidence grows for early cut in MLR

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

Growing confidence that the Bank of England's minimum lending rate will soon be cut has been reflected in a sharp fall in Treasury Bill yields yesterday and a further good performance by gilt-edged prices.

The Government took advantage of the more optimistic mood to launch a new £100m bond issue. The new stock is to be a further £100m tranche of Exchangeable 12 per cent 1995.

This will be offered for sale by tender next Thursday, with a minimum bid of £100,000. The stock, being allocated to the National Debt Commissioners, is expected to be sold at a premium.

At the minimum tender price of 99.25 per cent the flat yield is 12.97 per cent and the gross yield to redemption 13.07 per cent.

Once again the authorities are making the issue in partly paid form. The initial deposit on this occasion will be £50 per cent on applications. The balance will fall due on October 24.

The new stock is the first to be issued since July 23. The Government has been able to meet a good part of its borrowing requirements over recent weeks from the proceeds of calls that have fallen due on stocks issued earlier in the summer.

The latest stock is designed to bring in receipts over both the October and November banking months. At the moment the Government has only £440m of funding. It has had up to £1,000m of funding available since the call on July 23.

In total, the Government has now issued £2,350m nominal of gilt-edged stock to the public in the present financial year. It is clearly hoping that it will now be able to cut back gilt-edged issues quite substantially over the remainder of the financial year.

On Tuesday, it was forecast that the public sector borrowing requirement would be smaller in the second half of the year and that the underlying pressure for monetary expansion would be reduced.

| Stock | Nominal | Gross | Yield |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Treasury 14 1/2 2004/05 | £1,000m | 14.24 | 14.24 |
| Exchangeable 12 1/2 1995 | £1,000m | 12.97 | 12.97 |
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It also announced that it would be making a new and larger issue of index-linked National Savings bonds.

One problem facing the Government in the presentation of its policy is that the indications and forecasts which it favours are more pessimistic than most since the start of the year.

The retail price index, introduced at the insistence of Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, stands 17.8 per cent above its level in August 1979, and inflation forecasts based on more realistic descriptions of the economy say that inflation could be 18 per cent at the end of next year.

Much against the local trend Seton has in the past three years more than trebled its production area and doubled its workforce. More than 400 people are now employed at the Oldham factory. The company, which is privately owned, also has a plastics plant at St Neots in Cambridgeshire.

"At a time when the textile industry appears to be dying the death of a thousand jobs and production cuts, it is a pleasure to see a company like Seton's success," said Mr John Longworth, secretary of the Textile Association. "Speaking for the industry generally, I am sure that we must expect several more mills to close before Christmas."

BL looks ahead despite £155m first-half loss

By Peter Hill,
Industrial Editor

Losses of £155m for the first half of this financial year were unveiled yesterday by Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL.

With the prospect of no early improvement in trading performance—indeed, the second half of the year will produce further heavy losses—the Government will be required to make an early statement on the future funding of the company.

The pre-tax loss was £33m more than the loss for the whole of last year, and followed a pre-tax profit in the first half of last year of £20.1m.

Apart from the strong possibility of a request for further cash, the British Leyland chairman appealed to the Government for rapid action to reduce interest rates. He also sought curbs on imports, especially from Spain, and called for cooperation and warned that further reductions in the workforce may be needed.

Despite the gloomy outlook—Sir Michael spoke of the "very tight position in the next 18 months"—he revealed that the company is now seeking government approval for the first phase of launching of the company's new middle range car, the LC 10, which is to replace the existing Allegro and Morris Ital models, and which is regarded as being the key to the group's success in the end of last year, when it also

plemented the model range, which is to receive a much needed boost with the launching next month of the Metro.

Leyland's half year losses reflect the costs involved in carrying through the programme of factory closures and redundancies, while development costs are also a big drain on resources and these will continue until 1983.

Included in the losses for the first half were a sum of nearly £17m for manning reductions in these BL plants which are to continue under the streamlining programme, with a further £22.9m to cover the cost of plant closures and redundancies.

Over the past 12 months 20,000 Leyland workers have been made redundant, and a further 10,000 workers are scheduled to leave between now and the end of this year.

In the face of the deteriorating market BL has speeded up the two year programme of 13 factory closures and labour cut-backs, but Sir Michael declared: "We are doing the right things and we have stuck to our strategy."

Senior executives are now involved in preparing the company's corporate plan for next year which will be submitted to the board for approval. Secretary for Industry, through BL's principal shareholder, the National Enterprise Board.

BL has already drawn on all but £25m of the £300m which the Government allocated at the end of last year, when it also



Sir Michael Edwards: "We are doing the right things, and have stuck to our strategy."

agreed to the provision of a further £133m for next year, conditional on BL's level of success in the course of this year.

Although he stressed that it remained the company's objective to avoid extra calls on the Government for more cash, Sir

Michael said that the corporate plan would reflect the cash needs of the company, and the board would have to weigh up whether funds could be obtained from private sources or from Government. At that

stage it would become a political decision.

But the BL chairman made it clear that the Government should act in other areas in order to assist both BL and industry in general.

Appealing for a rapid and substantial reduction in the present high interest rates, Sir Michael declared: "Enough is enough. It is time for a review of interest rates. Industry is having to carry the bulk of the burden, and why should it?"

The strength of the pound had hampered exports, but they had held up well at £57m, although the volume was down. Sir Michael also stressed the need for a much tougher line to control imports of Spanish-made cars—principally the Ford Fiesta and main challenger to the Metro—and attacked the "absolutely blatant" trading situation under which the United Kingdom was virtually prohibited from exporting cars to Spain, while 67,000 Spanish-built cars had been sold in the United Kingdom in the past 12 months.

On the question of the level of Japanese imports, he said that Leyland noted this week's agreement between British and Japanese producers, but said that the problems should be settled at EEC level.

Sir Michael said: "We must continue to contain and reduce unit costs if Britain is to remain in the car business. Wage settlements must have to reflect this fact of life."

GEC plans court fight on takeover

By Catherine Guan
Financial Correspondent

The General Electric Company may take the Government to the international courts to get compensation for its 50 per cent of the British Aircraft Corporation, nationalised in 1977 but still not fully paid for.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, the chairman of GEC, said at the company's annual meeting yesterday that the group was considering taking legal action as part of its efforts "to rectify what we consider a blatant injustice to our company, and obtain the balance of the compensation to which we feel we are fully entitled."

In July a public rift opened up between GEC and the other former joint-owner of BAC, Vickers, which threatened to delay settlement still further.

Vickers, busy merging with Rolls Royce Motors, seemed anxious to receive the much-delayed compensation. But GEC preferred to wait for a better price, while the Government had promised to take a second look at the problem.

In August, both groups accepted a provisional price for BAC of £255m. GEC continued to insist that the true worth was nearer £200m, the sum which GEC now says it will try to claim.

GEC and Vickers have so far received only £20m each on account. BAC was nationalised three years ago, while Vickers was taken over by the Government in 1971.

While the procedures for pursuit of the claim through the international courts are uncertain, Lord Nelson said yesterday that settlement was being urged towards prompt

Factory closing for two months to avoid permanent redundancies

By Our Industrial Staff

Redundancies, lay-offs and short time working affecting more than 6,500 people were announced yesterday. The cutbacks were blamed on the recession.

Clayton Aniline of Manchester, one of the country's leading dyestuffs manufacturers, is to close down from mid-November until January next year, laying off 1,300 workers. It says the move is intended to avoid compulsory redundancies.

A spokesman for the company said there were only 15 weeks' work left to cover the last quarter of this year and the first quarter of the next.

The company had assured its workers it would avoid compulsory redundancies.

The British Steel Corporation confirmed yesterday that the 4,900 workforce at Scotland's biggest steel plant, the Ravenscraig works near Motherwell, would be put on "short-time" working by the end of the month.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was visiting the plant when the announcement was made and described it as "extremely sad".

Mr Len Raby, BSC's Scottish production director, said the likely pattern of working to be introduced would be three weeks on, one week off.

Ravenscraig is to close two assembly plants in Northamptonshire and Birmingham by the end of the year because of a dramatic slump in overseas sales.

The two plants—at Trowell, near Nottingham and Handsworth in the West Midlands—employ 270 people. A company spokesman said 50 employees at the Trowell factory would be offered alternative work "wherever possible".

ERF, the heavy truck manufacturer, is to shed a further 98 jobs at its Sandbach plant in Cheshire where 93 redundancies were announced last month. This will reduce the labour force by a quarter.

The company also announced yesterday that from Monday the company's 300 technical and clerical staff would work two days a week instead of three.

Post Office plans criticized

By Bill Johnstone
Financial Correspondent

The Department of Industry has been sharply criticised this week by members of the telecommunications manufacturing industry, for the inconsistencies in the Government's proposed legislation to allow the private sector to compete for the British telecommunications market.

The Electrical Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, representing about 40 per cent of employees in the production side of telecommunications, and the Telecommunications Engineering and Manufacturing Association, representing the industry, have been particularly critical of the plans.

Under the proposed legislation, foreign suppliers would be able to compete to provide telecommunications equipment for the telephone network. Both employee groups have told the Department of Industry that very strong control on imports must be exercised by the Government.

Both unions are also concerned that, although the private sector will be able to supply equipment, the maintenance of the equipment would still be performed by the Post Office.

The role of the Post Office in supplying equipment is another area of conflict.

The legislation is to be presented to Parliament during the next session, which begins at the end of October.

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Another good month for societies but worrying changes ahead

By Margaret Stone
Financial Correspondent

Building society net receipts in August were the second best this year. However, although the immediate outlook for mortgage funds is encouraging, the long-term outlook is worrying.

Figures released yesterday by the Building Societies Association show that societies pulled in £1,784m in new funds in August and that, after withdrawals of £1,477m, net receipts emerged at £307m.

This figure was £33m lower than in July but better than the £20m net receipts for the first six months of the year.

Lending figures were also good. Societies lent £817m to homebuyers and commitments now stand at £863m.

Anecdotal evidence has been available for some time that mortgages are now much easier to obtain and this was officially confirmed yesterday.

Mr Norman Griggs, secretary general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The amount of funds available for home buyers and demand for them are now approaching a point of balance, the demand having been reduced by the effect of the recession in the economy."

The cutback in home loan demand is reflected in house prices which are now moving very slowly, if at all. This is in contrast to the Government which viewed last year's rapid increase in prices with some dismay.

Its latest measures to extend the indexation of National Savings are likely to keep the mortgage rate up for longer than expected, but could also lead to mortgage funds being scarce once again.

Mr Griggs said yesterday that the current equilibrium "will undoubtedly be disturbed by the Government's decision to extend the 'granny bond' scheme because this is bound to attract funds away from societies, thereby reducing the supply of home loans and delaying the time when the rates paid to investors, and therefore the rates charged to borrowers, can be reduced."

Before the Government's extra indexation move, the association had been increasingly optimistic about the possibilities of interest rate cuts. The net figures for September are still expected to show a substantial increase, but confidence in the trend being maintained has vanished.

Mr Cedric Parkinson, Minister of State at the Department of Trade, is paying a one-day visit to Lancashire on Monday. He plans to meet industry representatives in Manchester and Burnley as well as making a tour of textile mills at Colne, Nelson and Rossendale.

celebration yesterday, said it made a pleasant change to be celebrating an opening rather than mourning another closure. He praised Seton for its success in what was a highly specialized market. Close attention to product development had enabled the company to emerge as world leader in the field.

The opening was carried out by Lord Rhodes of Saddleworth, who declared a personal "interest" in the company's success. While recovering from a recent leg injury he had had cause to be grateful for Seton's elasticated products, he confessed.

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Opec's pricing plan is seen as unworkable

By Our Financial Staff

Industrial nations believe that Opec will find its plan to index the price of oil to economic and financial changes in the west is unworkable. Opec ministers meet in Vienna on Monday to approve the system.

Most governments doubt that Opec could enforce the supply discipline that would be needed to maintain such a system. A Carter Administration official said there were no indications that Opec could manage its output.

A summary of official opinion in industrial capitals shows that some industrial nations believe that in the unlikely event of the price system being workable, it would bring welcome stability to an unpredictable and volatile market. Not all the governments approve of indexing oil prices, but they fear sudden and unpredictable changes.

But the industrial countries are worried that the Opec system may provide a price floor, but not a ceiling. During supply shortages, some Opec members may indulge in the sort of price leaping seen in 1979.

This was stressed earlier this week at the World Energy Conference in Munich by Mr UK Lankshe, executive director of the International Energy Agency.

Most officials believe that Opec will do what it wants and that past efforts have shown there is not much to be gained by castigating the oil producers in the hope they will relent. This explains why the leaders of industrial nations have been quiet while Opec has been finalising its scheme. There have been no moves by Opec or by industrial nations to discuss the issue.

Opec's oil price would be linked to inflation in industrial countries by using a basket of currencies to even out parity changes, and also to economic growth in the west to provide a rise in real prices. Adjust-

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

National Savings

More index-linked schemes to ponder

On Tuesday the Government went significantly further down the road of indexation when it announced substantial extensions to the existing range of index-linked National Savings schemes.

In a quick sortie to raise an extra £1,300m from National Savings before the end of this financial year—and to ease the pressures in the gilt-edged market—the Government is giving the public a little more of what it so clearly wants.

While sales of other National Savings products have been distinctly lacklustre, the index-linked Retirement issue of National Savings, the so-called "granny bonds", and index-linked Save-As-You-Earn (SAYE) have proved attractive. The Treasury jumped the gun slightly with its announcement and not all the details of the new schemes have been finalised. But the broad picture is that a new issue of granny bonds for both men and women aged 60 and over will go on sale in mid-November with a maximum holding of £5,000. The present issue will be withdrawn. The monthly £30 limit for SAYE is to be increased to £50 some time in the near future, but the actual date is unknown.

Removing the historic injustice which made men wait until they were 65 before becoming eligible for the granny bonds, is both welcome and significant. With the new issue, preservation of the state pension book will no longer be proof of age.

The Government could ask prospective purchasers to show their birth certificates, but that is, frankly, unlikely. It will probably remain up to the individual to disclose his age without further check. This means in principle that the Government can, whenever it wishes, tap the market more vigorously by lowering the age qualification in stages.

But by increasing maximum holdings to £5,000, in addition to the £1,200 that those of retirement age can hold of the

present issue, the Government has, ironically, added to problems of the elderly.

When the maximum holding of granny bonds was £500, or even the present level of £1,200, it was easy enough to advise anyone who could take up their maximum allocation, particularly as the rate of inflation was rising.

But the new maximum holding of £4,200 (£8,400 for a married couple) will represent possibly all or at least a substantial part of the life savings of many elderly people.

Should all their savings be tucked away into non-productive index-linked bonds, particularly as the rate of inflation is now expected, and is quite likely, to come down?

The Government is in effect gambling with small savers' money to bring down the rate of inflation which will reduce the index-linked appreciation of the granny bonds. If inflation is cured, then there should be prospects of real returns from other forms of investment — in other words the combination of capital growth and income will exceed the rate of inflation.

Small savers who put all their money into index-linked bonds will themselves be gambling against the success of the Government's economic policy. Granny bonds are an investment of outstanding value during a period of rampant inflation, as people who bought them back in June 1975, know to their profit. The original £300 stake bought then is now worth £1,060.48.

The latest retail price index figures indicate that the cost of living is now running at an annual rate of 16.3 per cent, and the official forecasts are that it will be down to 13.5 per cent by the end of the second quarter of 1981.

If this forecast is correct—and not all the pundits are convinced that it is—then it is better to buy a merely index-linked security, or go for a fixed interest investment which

will be returning more than 13.5 per cent next year? (Equity options, of course, could offer an even more attractive prospect.)

For example, the present conventional 19th issue of National Savings certificates offers the equivalent of a tax-free return of 10.3 per cent a year, a gross return of 14.73 per cent to basic rate taxpayers. If the promised land of single figure inflation ever does arrive, then 14.73 per cent for these next five years will be an excellent buy. The issue's shelf life must be coming to an end as the rate of inflation declines, so £1,500 here (the maximum holding) should not go amiss.

Another option is the five-year term shares from building societies. These are returning 17.85 per cent gross but the yield is, of course, tied to the fluctuating basic building society share rate. Societies' five-year term shares pay a guaranteed rate of return two points above the basic rate.

If the basic share rate dropped to 3.5 per cent from its present 10.5 per cent level—which in view of the societies' response to the extra index-linked schemes does not seem imminent—the gross return on five-year term shares would still be 15 per cent, a positive return over the projected inflation rate.

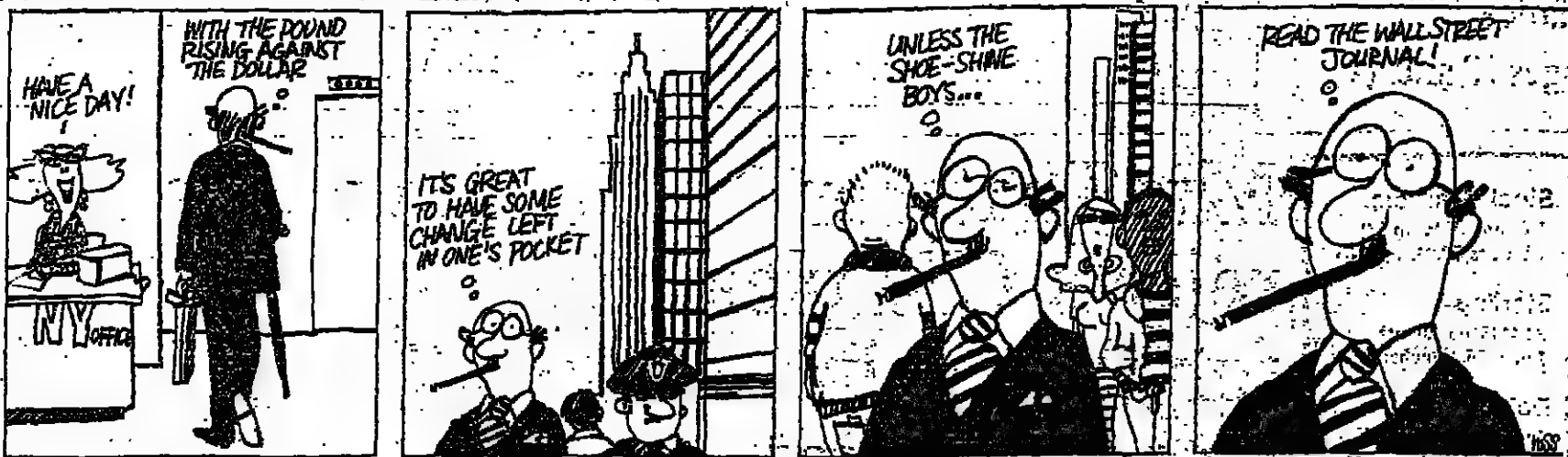
Worth a second glance is the Government's anti-inflationary policy succeeds, as people who bought them back in June 1975, know to their profit. The original £300 stake bought then is now worth £1,060.48.

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Margaret Stone

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Consumer rights

How to complain about bad service

The consumer lobby is uncomfortably aware that it is now, under a Conservative government and in time of recession, living in a different world from that it basked in for the past decade. No good now seeking the answer to every problem in some new committee or piece of legislation. The breeding season for quagmires is over, and the species itself is threatened.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, has spoken valuably of a leaner consumer movement, about consumers standing on their own feet, and fighting their own battles.

So Rule One for consumers fighting their own battles is to be clear-headed. It should be to copy relevant correspondence and send it to Mrs Oppenheim, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, so that she can see for herself how you are getting on.

Rule Two must be to work the public interest. They are not, admittedly, over-endowed with teeth and have often been deliberately starved of information by the industries whose activities they are supposed to oversee.

Left to languish without a regular diet of public indignation to drive them on, they might indeed become quite useless and have to be put down (as the Government have vaguely threatened). If that happens, the bill-fodder consumer will be among the losers.

The network of consumer councils in the nationalised industries throughout the country is complicated and still too little known. Broadly each electricity board, gas region and airport has its consumer or consultative council. There are also eleven transport users' consultative councils, whose areas inconveniently fail to coincide with British Rail's operating divisions.

These are there to help deal with individual complaints about the industries' services, and their addresses may be found in local telephone directories, on the backs of electricity and gas bills, or advertised at railway stations and airports.

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When the complainant goes beyond an individual problem and concerns policy issues or systems failures, it can properly be raised at national level. The appropriate bodies to contact are:

The National Gas Consumers Council, 130 Jermyn St, London SW1

The Electricity Consumers Council, 119 Margate Road, London NW1

The Central Transport Consultative Committee, 34 Great Marlborough St, London W1

The Domestic Coal Consumers Council, 2 Bathill Row, London EC1

The Post Office Users National Council, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1

The Air Transport Users Committee, 13 Kingsway, London WC2

There are no consumer councils to keep watch on water authorities or over municipal or national bus services, but a widening audience for complaints about them might be found at The National Consumers Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1

Remember also, your MP. Other opportunities arise from time to time, and you should make the most of them. Keep the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, firmly in mind.

When the commission is called upon to investigate monopolies, merger proposals, or alleged restrictive practices, it is open to any member of the public to make representations,

submit evidence, and unburden his complaints.

There has perhaps been no shortage of consumer input for one MMC inquiry at present proceeding—that into commuter services in London and the South-East.

Mrs Oppenheim has already announced her intention to refer the Severn-Trent Water Authority to the MMC, and some consumers in its area, indignant at increased water charges, have been jumping the gun by seeking to submit evidence before the references are even made.

This, at least, shows the right attitude. Under the new Competition Act the strengthened MMC is obliged to work with a much lighter timetable than was its work. With only six months—or, at very most nine—to investigate and report, those who want their evidence to be considered must be quick off the mark.

What individual consumers could have to say about the Central Electricity Generating Board (whose "customers" are the electricity boards) is perhaps harder to imagine, but it cannot have escaped anyone's attention that the CEB's reputation of future demand on which all their plans are based, has been badly awry; that uncommissioned power stations still abound; and that hugely expensive nuclear programmes are contemplated before any attempt has been made at thorough-going energy conservation.

The Electricity Consumers Council, at least, have weighed in with a series of technical arguments as thoroughly researched as limited resources allow, and Friends of the Earth and the anti-nuclear lobby will not be letting the opportunity slip either.

MMC references, naturally, do not deal only with nationalised industries. Some in the private sector, such as those proceeding at the moment into the monopolistic supply of camions and into the trading checks system, originated at least partly in consumer complaints. The Consumers Association, even now, is campaigning for the Office of Fair Trading to refer the milk distribution industry to the MMC too.

Although the level of information consumers can supply may not always match that available from state sources, its importance is not so underestimated. It was information from an individual "mole" working temporarily in a discount store that first alerted the National Consumer Council to "full-line" systems (which required a buyer to purchase quantities of each item in a product range in order to be able to buy any of them) and "tie-in" sales (a stipulation that a buyer must purchase one or all of his requirements of a second (tied) product from the supplier of a first (tying) product—which are, along with preferential discounts to retailers, the subjects of an MMC investigation).

The Office of Fair Trading is certainly anxious to gather more evidence of anti-competitive practices from consumer resources. Hitherto aggressive business "confessors" have been much more productive sources of complaints and information which the OFT has found useful in deciding which cases to refer to the MMC for further inquiry.

Consumers who get the waters from other authorities than Severn-Trent may wonder why that one had been singled out. Gas showrooms having a ready-made criticism of electric showrooms might bear scrutiny. And what of those in remote areas who have to pay a price the electricity board demands to connect themselves to supply? Are they as like victims of anti-competitive practices and abuse of monopoly powers as "Chlor Gas" (now the MMC's hand) customer?

Complaints on subjects like these and, concerning private sector monopolies, should be addressed to Mr Gordon Barr, the Director General of Fair Trading, Field House, Broad Street, London EC1. While evidence to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission should go to the at New Court, 45 Carey Street, London WC2. The more accurate representations are more likely they are to rest in getting something done.

Robin Yarr

Taxation

Some very useful losses

An investment where your capital profits can be taxed at a maximum of 30 per cent and any loss would be deducted against income tax up to 50 per cent or even 75 per cent seems too good to be true.

Yet, this possibility has been introduced by this year's Finance Act (Section 37) and gives a welcome and unexpected boost to the new Unlisted Securities Market (USM).

On Monday, the Stock Exchange expected to conduct the first trading of companies which want their shares to be dealt on the Unlisted Securities Market. As a result, the requirements for companies will be almost as stringent as for quoted securities, although for tax and company law purposes the shares will still not be treated as quoted.

Indeed, at present, under rule 163(2), the approval of the Stock Exchange Council has to be obtained for every transaction in this market. Under the new rules, dealings will take place freely.

The new provision in the Finance Act 1980 allows individuals who incur losses on disposals after April 5, 1980, on certain equities in United Kingdom trading companies, to set off their losses against income tax instead of capital gains tax. The relief only applies to unquoted companies which should include USM shares.

The tax benefit applies to those who subscribe for shares, not to those who buy them. Only the fortunate few who have made successful applications for new issues will be able to benefit. Investors who buy the shares in the secondary market from the original

subscribers will be in the conventional tax position—with both gains and losses subject to the usual gains tax rules and rates only.

Losses on unquoted securities are normally allowed the income tax relief only if they are realised as a result of a disposal at full market value. Given that there is an actively traded market supervised by the Stock Exchange, this should be easier to establish than with other unquoted securities.

Investors should remember that the relief is not automatic—it has to be claimed in writing within two years of the end of the fiscal year in which the loss is realized.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

THE SECOND ALLIANCE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

A very favourable year for earnings

Results for year to 31st July

| | 1980 | % Change on 1979 |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Gross Revenue | £3,340,000 | +32 |
| Earnings per Ordinary 25p unit* | 10.10p | +40 |
| Total dividend per Ordinary 25p unit* | 9.06p | +26 |
| Net Asset Value per Ordinary 25p unit | 269.7p | +17 |

*Including 0.56p arrears of dividend receipts. It is the intention to at least maintain this total dividend at 8.5p in the current year.

Geographical Distribution of Investments

| | U.K. Equities | U.S. Equities | European Equities | Other Equities | Fixed Interest | Total |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| Valuation at 31/7/80 (£'000) | 34,054 | 13,996 | 1,604 | 3,641 | 4,101 | 57,396 |
| | 59% | 24% | 3% | 6% | 8% | 100% |

Extracts from the Chairman's Speech:

Oil and energy sectors have contributed particularly to the 17% increase in net asset value and some substantial profits have been taken.

We have a continuing direct commitment in North Sea oil exploration through City Oil Exploration which will be participating in the seventh round of licences in a consortium led by Union Oil Co. of California.

The year has seen the net investment of £21 million of cash resources, half in the U.S. and half in Japan. An \$8 million line of credit has been arranged to pursue this policy of overseas

investment as opportunities present themselves.

While the emphasis at the moment is on improving the underlying value of our assets, a policy which may in the short term produce little change in earnings, we think our shareholders will at the end of the day benefit both ways from increased income and in capital appreciation of these assets. I believe that despite all the gloomy forebodings with which we are treated almost daily there are good grounds for expecting a better all round performance from Investment Trusts over the years ahead.

Copies of the Report may be obtained from The Secretary, The Second Alliance Trust Company Limited, Meadow House, 64 Reform Street, Dundee DD1 1TJ



A code of conduct for Great Grimpen

A recent committee meeting of the Great Grimpen Mine Investment Club resolved that in view of some of the Wilson report's comments on financial institutions, a sub-committee should be appointed to draft a code of conduct covering the club's investment activities.

The members of this august body were the vicar and his wife, the Reverend Basil and Rosemary Quiche, Prison Officer "Wormwood" Scrubbs from nearby Dartmoor, and Slicklepath's postmistress and trainer with, Ada Blott. The sub-committee has now reported back, and its findings were debated in plenary session last week.

Uniquely in the club's annals, the fruits of these labours were accepted in broad principle, subject to only a few minor alterations. It was, therefore, agreed that the final version should be passed on in the form of an instruction to merchant banker Adrian Lustwort, who was responsible for the portfolio's management, and club secretary, Aemilia Sibbling's nephew to boot.

Lady Baskerville observed at this point that the word "man" might run into difficulties in any action under the Trade Descriptions Act, given the fund's performance in dark, psychic, death-bound, Paganic, the latterly Hound of the Baskervilles, would do a great deal better for a smaller fee, she claimed. The vicar tried to head off this



heresy, but the murmurs of approval round the table were a warning that the subject was a hot one. Nevertheless, Chairman Lieut. Col. Randolph Grog-Brevington managed to restore order and re-focus attention on the provisions of the code of conduct, which were as follows:

(a) In keeping with national efforts to contain the money supply, no distribution of the fund's income would be made until March 31, 1981, when the matter would be reconsidered. Meanwhile, interest paid dividends accruing were to be retained in the club's current account for further investment from time to time on an ad hoc basis. This effectively shelved another dire problem for the time being—the equitable carve-up of the ready.

(c) It was agreed to support the Council of the Stock Exchange in every particular during these difficult times, especially with regard to their forthcoming action in the Restrictive Practices Court. It was felt appropriate for the club to apply to give evidence on behalf of the Stock Exchange in the course of this hearing, particularly in view of the fact that four and possibly even five of the members of the council were cousins of Aemilia Sibbling, and jolly good chase.

(d) Where possible, committee members should support the club's investments by buying the products of the companies concerned, and encourage fellow-Slicklepathers to do likewise. Uncaise was expressed as to the possible inappropriateness and imprudence of the proposal under some circumstances, but ultimately the motion was carried.

(e) Stripped by the passion logic of Kevin Lust, the committee accepted that no investment should be made in a company involved in the transport, financing, distribution, consumption of imported African grapefruit or Chilean olives. However, members were also persuaded by an equi-passionate appeal from chairman to agree, narrow that involvement in the import of Chilean grapefruit and South African olives was "acceptable".

(f) Taking this as his start point, and via some rather a voluted logic in the middle, Colonel Blott successfully in the case of banning investment in any brewery, distillery, or other of course, Allied Elderberry Wines Ltd. (s) Finally, Kevin Lust, and Brian Thistle, local experts of the Scottish Imperial Life Assurance Society, for an unlikely alliance to trust investment should be confined to equities and Government stocks. However, their argument was routed by the fact that Fund was already into sold the share being closely researched by Lady Baskerville. The treasurer, with Ada Blott, Aemilia Sibbling, but unknown to the others, thus paying the £100,000 vast speculative venture, sugar futures, the rest of which will shortly be revealed.

Francis Kinsman

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Claiming married allowance against husband's pension

My husband is 68, having been married for eight years, while I am 58 and working. My husband as a retired insurance company official, receives a pension well as state retirement pension, and with some investment income this totals about £500. My salary is about £500 and I receive some £500 investment income. Could I, and should I, claim the married allowance against my husband's income, rather than against my own? If so, could I claim it retrospectively, say? (IAW, Whetstone).

I will make no difference to my overall tax liability if my husband's pension is claimed against his own income rather than against mine. However, if my husband's pension is claimed against his own income, then my husband's pension will be subject to higher tax than if it were claimed against my income. This is because my husband's pension is subject to a 10% surcharge on the first £100 of the pension, which is not applied if the pension is claimed against my income.

Readers who wonder whether they should make this claim should consult a tax adviser. The time for this election is 12 months after the end of the tax year concerned.

Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

First, is there a council regulation prohibiting keeping machines like motor-cycles in the corridors? If not, you are not responsible for the tax of a third party in setting fire to your machine, provided you can prove that was the cause.

If there is a prohibition against keeping machines in the corridors then you are clearly in breach of it. Nevertheless, you may still not be liable if you can prove ignition was the act of vandals.

However, if self-ignition occurred you are probably liable for the cost of repainting (unless simply washing down would have cleaned the wall sufficiently).

To face your problem raises quite abstract academic points on causation and remoteness of damage so if you contest their claim the council may well decide not to pursue it.

Mr R. C. Kirby's letter correctly stresses the unfairness arising from capital gains tax on "deemed" disposals. A case in point has arisen in my family where no disposal is even deemed, no sale has taken place, and nobody has made a gain.

In the early 1960s a number of shares in a small private company which manages my family estate were put in trustees' names for the benefit of my children; these shares were subsequently transferred to my children, after reaching majority and the trustees released from their trust. The Revenue are now demanding a £6.4m jump in profits to £24m.

ing tax due to the rise in the value of the property, regardless of the fact that no money passed in the transaction and no gain has been made.

Who is supposed to pay such a tax? The trustees who have no money, or the children who have now received the property to which they have been entitled for many years?

It would be fair if such a tax were levied if the shares were sold for cash and a gain thereby derived; at present surely 30 per cent of nothing is nil. (JY, Osoas).

It is possible for trustees to hold assets as "bare trustees" when the beneficiaries are said to be absolutely entitled to the assets concerned. Where "bare trustees" transfer assets to the beneficiaries no capital gains tax arises.

This situation must be contrasted to that where the trustees hold assets for beneficiaries subject to a power of appointment. In particular, it may well be that your children only became absolutely entitled to the trust assets on attaining majority. In such a case, a capital gain charge arises on the deemed disposal by the trustees to the beneficiaries which takes place upon their becoming absolutely entitled.

The position is clearly unsatisfactory in many cases. However, it should be borne in mind that the tax may be payable in instalments over eight years. Moreover, if the shares involved formed part of a 25 per cent shareholding in a family trading company, it may be possible for the trustees and the beneficiaries to elect jointly that the shares be regarded as having been transferred to the beneficiaries at the time of the transfer. This would mean that no capital gains tax would be payable and you should therefore ask your professional advisers whether Section 126 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 may apply in this instance.

Finally, we would mention that the liability to capital gains tax is primarily that of the trustees. If they have distributed all the assets to the beneficiaries the tax may be payable by them.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Dunlop stars as equities advance

The smallest rise in retail prices for a year and a new Government stock which the gilt dealers received with equanimity made for another good day in the market. In equities, Dunlop again stole the show, climbing 4p to 84p for a two-day rise of 10p.

Jobbers shrugged off their normal end-of-account melancholia as a firm tone in equities developed into some heavy buying of leading shares for the new account after 3.30 pm. Most sectors of the market shared in the fun at one stage or other during the day.

Oil saw some of the heaviest buying for several months. Gold moved up sharply and held best levels as the gold price tested the £700 level. Electricals were hectic all day despite gloomy news from Thorn EMI's annual meeting, while properties, banks and insurance were all in demand.

The FT Index closed 5.9 up at 508.9 for a gain of 25 points, or more than 5 per cent, during the fortnightly account. Pleased by the underlying tone of the market, dealers expressed confidence that the market was consolidating firmly above the 500 level.

Gilt began firmly, opening above overnight levels. Some hesitancy developed with the

news of another prime rate increase in the United States and the announcement of the £1,000m long stock. An Exchequer 12 per cent 1998 £50 paid and with a minimum tender price of £92.1, it was reckoned "to be reasonably pitched and when dealings resumed at 4.15 pm prices went a bit better."

Hard on the heels of Cadbury Schweppes' interim profits drop of 3.2 per cent to £21m, comes a firm "buy" recommendation from Capel-Cure Myers. This year, CCM expects profits of £55m against £57.3m, but the real excitement comes in 1981, with a forecast of £71m profit. The shares rose another 2.1p yesterday - they were 62p before the interim.

Gilts ended showing gains of about 1/2p on list prices at both the long and short ends, although taking account of the previous night's after-hours losses, gains on the day were more like 1/2p to 1p.

Beecham at 159p and Bowater at 173p both added 3p and Turner & Newall at 110p and P&O at 129p both recovered 4p after recent price slumps.

Glaxo was 6p better at 250p

Latest results

| Company | Sales | Profits | Earnings | Div | Pay | Year's |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------|----------|
| Int or Fin | £m | £m | per share | pence | date | total |
| Appleyard (I) | 66(70) | 0.84(0.98) | —(9.23) | —(2.25) | — | — |
| Blackwood (F) | 21(26) | 0.06(0.07) | 0.6(4.7) | 0.3(2.6) | — | — |
| Blackwell (I) | 21(26) | 1.2(1.3) | 14(13.1) | —(6.2) | — | — |
| Cantors (F) | 18.6(17.09) | 0.13(0.14) | 2.53(8.6) | 1.4(1.47) | 1/5 | 2.3(2.3) |
| Cass Clifford (I) | 5.3(6.3) | 0.5(0.22) | 21.7(17.0) | —(NII) | — | —(NII) |
| Clifford (I) | 19.5(17.2) | 0.2(0.5) | — | 1.5(1.7) | — | — |
| ICI Group (I) | 1.64(1.09) | 0.02(0.025) | — | — | 31/10 | — |
| George Ingham (I) | 7.64(8.44) | 0.16(0.28) | 2.7(2.9) | 0.5(0.95) | 10/10 | —(1.9) |
| Edward Leas (I) | 2.7(2.8) | 0.02(0.022) | 0.97(0.35) | — | — | — |
| London (I) | 6.7(8.5) | 0.5(0.42) | 6.8(8.5) | 1.8(NII) | 7/11 | — |
| McGill and Hry (I) | 21.7(16.4) | 0.54(0.1) | — | —(0.4) | — | — |
| Norvic (I) | 7.2(8) | 0.26(0.1) | — | 1.1(1) | 22/10 | — |
| Geo Oliver (I) | 6.18(5.4) | 0.26(0.1) | — | 3.15(3.13) | 21/10 | — |
| London (I) | 2.9(2.48) | — | — | — | — | — |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply a dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. — = Loss.

Blackwood slips to loss of £1.2m

By Our Financial Staff

Further damage to the embattled United Kingdom carpet industry is revealed in full year figures from Blackwood, Morton & Sons (Holdings).

Last year's pretax profits of £350,000 turned into a £1.2m loss for the twelve months to June 30. Turnover slumped to £26m to £21.5m.

The loss was struck after a year of £554,000 against £459,000 and depreciation of £401,000 against £414,000.

An extraordinary debit of £362,000 below the line, against a credit last time of £564,000, relates to closure costs of the Liverpool factory and redundancy costs as well as a property disposal surplus of £58,000. This leaves the loss per share at 14.1p against a profit of 2.1p.

The problems were familiar: severe competition in recession-hit markets, and with increasing imports and overcapacity at home the difficult trading conditions.

But the company believes its savings and modernization put it in a good position to exploit any upturn. No dividend is proposed this year.

RETAIL PRICES

The following are the index numbers for 1979 and 1980, as retail prices (excluding tobacco) as published by the Department of Employment yesterday

| | (1) 1979 | (2) 1980 | (3) Annual rate of increase |
|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|
| All items | 100 | 100 | 0 |
| 1979 | 200.9 | 222.1 | 22.1 |
| 1980 | 222.1 | 234.6 | 22.6 |
| 1981 | 234.6 | 258.9 | 22.6 |
| 1982 | 258.9 | 283.9 | 22.6 |
| 1983 | 283.9 | 308.9 | 22.6 |
| 1984 | 308.9 | 333.9 | 22.6 |
| 1985 | 333.9 | 358.9 | 22.6 |
| 1986 | 358.9 | 383.9 | 22.6 |
| 1987 | 383.9 | 408.9 | 22.6 |
| 1988 | 408.9 | 433.9 | 22.6 |
| 1989 | 433.9 | 458.9 | 22.6 |
| 1990 | 458.9 | 483.9 | 22.6 |

Briefly

Nordia & Peacock: Turnover for half year to June 30, £157.5m (£129.7m). Taxable profit, £2.7m (£3.3m). Dividend 2.6p (2.14p) gross.

Montfort (Knitting Mills): Turnover for half year to June 30, £2.21m (£2.34m). Pretax profit, £38,000 (£39,000). Interim 1.0p (1.25p) net.

Compo Holdings: Pre-tax profit for year to March, 1980, £277,000. Taxable profit, £255,000. Dividend 1.5p. EPS 8.8p.

A. and C. Black: Turnover for half year to June 30, £1.281m (£1.24m). Pretax profit, £5,000 (£7,000). EPS 0.6p (0.7p). Interim dividend, 0.71p (0.71p). Board considers unlikely that group will show a profit for year 1980.

London and Liverpool Trust: Net Revenue for year to March 30, £31,500 (£24,000). EPS 0.57p (0.55p). Nav 19.7p (21.35p). No dividend for year 1980. Board points out that the figures are not characteristic of the company's industrial holding activities.

C. H. Industrial: Chairman, Mr Tim Healey, told annual meeting that sharp drop in demand is affecting current trading, and it is likely that first-half group results will show a marked reduction compared with last year.

Sales Clifford Industries: Sales for six months to June 30, £5.3m (£5.3m). Loss attributable to shareholders, £574,000 (profit £228,000). EPS loss 21.7p (earnings, 17p). Board says break-even position has been reached and further improvement expected.

Thomas Northwick and Sons is selling its shares in Canterbury Frozen Meat of New Zealand to Imperial Chemicals, and the shares will be taken up by institutional investors and marketing arrangements with CMA are continuing.

George Ingham and Co (Holdings): Turnover for half year to June 30, £1.63m (£1.09m). Loss £21,000 (£25,000). No interim dividend.

LBIT's £2m subsidiary bid

By Our Financial Staff

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The bid is being made through Burch Holdings, another Le Bas Investment Trust (LBIT) subsidiary. The terms are 85p an ordinary share, and 25p for each preference share. Acceptances from LBIT and two directors of Edward Leas (£LB) total 57.7 per cent.

ELB shareholders get a maintained dividend of 1.38p gross. Its interim pretax profits to June 28 were £514,000.

Third US listing for London

Deals start on Monday in Pennzoil, the third United States group to be formally listed on the London Stock Exchange this week. The others are Sea Containers and Houston Oil & Minerals.

Pennzoil is an oil and gas exploration and production group with refining and manufacturing interests and an expanding minerals side. It is the biggest producer of cable oils in the United States, but has growing interests further afield, including the pursuit of licences in the North Sea in the 7th round.

In 1979, group sales were £2,000m (£870m), and net income came to £238.5m (£99m).

Yule Catto stake in Revertex nears 88 pc

The extended offer by Yule Catto for Revertex Chemicals has raised the level of acceptance from 76 per cent to 87.69 per cent of the equity (£8.79m shares). The offer has not yet become unconditional and remains open for acceptance until September 28.

Friedland Doggart slips to £702,000

Taxable profits of Friedland Doggart for the 24 weeks to June 15 ended from £805,000 to £702,000. Interest income was £118,000 against £138,000. The interim dividend was raised from 2.5p gross to 2.6p.

Appleyard plunges into loss

By Our Financial Staff

The Appleyard Group of Companies, the Leeds-based car distributors and retailers, reports the most difficult six months in its history with last year's small profit margins collapsing to heavy losses. BL trading operations were the main problem.

The interim dividend has been passed and the possibility of a final is not in sight. The interim dividend last year was 3.2p.

An intensive rationalization programme has seen the closure of all car sales and services in Glasgow, a drastic reduction in staff, and a concentration of those in Edinburgh into one site, Mr Ian Appleyard, the chairman, said yesterday.

Costs of the programme, which included 600 redundancies, were £2m for the year. But the company has sold and is in the process of selling pro-

Mr Ian Appleyard, chairman of Appleyard

is only the second payment from Unisel, which is a new mine, and is in accordance with the company's stated policy of using half of what would normally go to dividends to pay off loans.

Unisel, whose borrowings currently stand at around £80m, wants to complete repayment within its tax holiday. It is expected to be about two years.

The full payments for March and September together, compared with 1979, are: Bracken 84p (52p), Kinross 191 (74p), Leslie 60 (32p), St Helena 223 (130p), Unisel 80, and Winkell 453 (205).

Best-ever dividends from Gencor gold mines

By Michael Prest

Mining Correspondent

In the wake of first-half net earnings virtually tripling to £126m (£70m), Gencor, formerly General Mining and Unisel Corporation, has declared record September dividends from its gold mines.

Compared with last year, St Helena's dividend is more than doubled at 418p cents. Bracken is up 25p to 47p cents, Kinross 75 cents to 107 cents, Leslie 15 cents to 31 cents and Winkell 134 cents to 259 cents.

The only dividend not to rise is that declared by Unisel, which remains at 40 cents. This

Norvic £500,000 in red midway

Norvic Securities, the building company that takes in Norvic and Mansfield shoes, suffered a £540,000 pretax loss in the first half of this year against a £105,900 profit last year. Turnover was down from £8m to £7.2m.

The Northampton factory will be closed in October with losses and redundancy expenses of £330,000.

The Mansfield factory made an operating loss of £200,000 in the period and these losses are continuing in the second half.

After the restructuring, only a moderate improvement in order volume would mean a return to profitability next year. The balance sheet this year will be helped by a revaluation surplus

Mr Ian Appleyard, chairman of Appleyard

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Commodities

GRAIN — The **Bullish** **WHEAT** — Canadian Western red spring, new crop, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, 2030-31, 2031-32, 2032-33, 2033-34, 2034-35, 2035-36, 2036-37, 2037-38, 2038-39, 2039-40, 2040-41, 2041-42, 2042-43, 2043-44, 2044-45, 2045-46, 2046-47, 2047-48, 2048-49, 2049-50, 2050-51, 2051-52, 2052-53, 2053-54, 2054-55, 2055-56, 2056-57, 2057-58, 2058-59, 2059-60, 2060-61, 2061-62, 2062-63, 2063-64, 2064-65, 2065-66, 2066-67, 2067-68, 2068-69, 2069-70, 2070-71, 2071-72, 2072-73, 2073-74, 2074-75, 2075-76, 2076-77, 2077-78, 2078-79, 2079-80, 2080-81, 2081-82, 2082-83, 2083-84, 2084-85, 2085-86, 2086-87, 2087-88, 2088-89, 2089-90, 2090-91, 2091-92, 2092-93, 2093-94, 2094-95, 2095-96, 2096-97, 2097-98, 2098-99, 2099-00, 2100-01, 2101-02, 2102-03, 2103-04, 2104-05, 2105-06, 2106-07, 2107-08, 2108-09, 2109-10, 2110-11, 2111-12, 2112-13, 2113-14, 2114-15, 2115-16, 2116-17, 2117-18, 2118-19, 2119-20, 2120-21, 2121-22, 2122-23, 2123-24, 2124-25, 2125-26, 2126-27, 2127-28, 2128-29, 2129-30, 2130-31, 2131-32, 2132-33, 2133-34, 2134-35, 2135-36, 2136-37, 2137-38, 2138-39, 2139-40, 2140-41, 2141-42, 2142-43, 2143-44, 2144-45, 2145-46, 2146-47, 2147-48, 2148-49, 2149-50, 2150-51, 2151-52, 2152-53, 2153-54, 2154-55, 2155-56, 2156-57, 2157-58, 2158-59, 2159-60, 2160-61, 2161-62, 2162-63, 2163-64, 2164-65, 2165-66, 2166-67, 2167-68, 2168-69, 2169-70, 2170-71, 2171-72, 2172-73, 2173-74, 2174-75, 2175-76, 2176-77, 2177-78, 2178-79, 2179-80, 2180-81, 2181-82, 2182-83, 2183-84, 2184-85, 2185-86, 2186-87, 2187-88, 2188-89, 2189-90, 2190-91, 2191-92, 2192-93, 2193-94, 2194-95, 2195-96, 2196-97, 2197-98, 2198-99, 2199-00, 2200-01, 2201-02, 2202-03, 2203-04, 2204-05, 2205-06, 2206-07, 2207-08, 2208-09, 2209-10, 2210-11, 2211-12, 2212-13, 2213-14, 2214-15, 2215-16, 2216-17, 2217-18, 2218-19, 2219-20, 2220-21, 2221-22, 2222-23, 2223-24, 2224-25, 2225-26, 2226-27, 2227-28, 2228-29, 2229-30, 2230-31, 2231-32, 2232-33, 2233-34, 2234-35, 2235-36, 2236-37, 2237-38, 2238-39, 2239-40, 2240-41, 2241-42, 2242-43, 2243-44, 2244-45, 2245-46, 2246-47, 2247-48, 2248-49, 2249-50, 2250-51, 2251-52, 2252-53, 2253-54, 2254-55, 2255-56, 2256-57, 2257-58, 2258-59, 2259-60, 2260-61, 2261-62, 2262-63, 2263-64, 2264-65, 2265-66, 2266-67, 2267-68, 2268-69, 2269-70, 2270-71, 2271-72, 2272-73, 2273-74, 2274-75, 2275-76, 2276-77, 2277-78, 2278-79, 2279-80, 2280-81, 2281-82, 2282-83, 2283-84, 2284-85, 2285-86, 2286-87, 2287-88, 2288-89, 2289-90, 2290-91, 2291-92, 2292-93, 2293-94, 2294-95, 2295-96, 2296-97, 2297-98, 2298-99, 2299-00, 2300-01, 2301-02, 2302-03, 2303-04, 2304-05, 2305-06, 2306-07, 2307-08, 2308-09, 2309-10, 2310-11, 2311-12, 2312-13, 2313-14, 2314-15, 2315-16, 2316-17, 2317-18, 2318-19, 2319-20, 2320-21, 2321-22, 2322-23, 2323-24, 2324-25, 2325-26, 2326-27, 2327-28, 2328-29, 2329-30, 2330-31, 2331-32, 2332-33, 2333-34, 2334-35, 2335-36, 2336-37, 2337-38, 2338-39, 2339-40, 2340-41, 2341-42, 2342-43, 2343-44, 2344-45, 2345-46, 2346-47, 2347-48, 2348-49, 2349-50, 2350-51, 2351-52, 2352-53, 2353-54, 2354-55, 2355-56, 2356-57, 2357-58, 2358-59, 2359-60, 2360-61, 2361-62, 2362-63, 2363-64, 2364-65, 2365-66, 2366-67, 2367-68, 2368-69, 2369-70, 2370-71, 2371-72, 2372-73, 2373-74, 2374-75, 2375-76, 2376-77, 2377-78, 2378-79, 2379-80, 2380-81, 2381-82, 2382-83, 2383-84, 2384-85, 2385-86, 2386-87, 2387-88, 2388-89, 2389-90, 2390-91, 2391-92, 2392-93, 2393-94, 2394-95,

A strong market with prices at their highest levels since mid-June characterized yesterday's performance in "Raw" sugar contracts. March Number Four contracts "climaxed" to a high of \$402.50, but the market closed well down from the "highs" due to belated long liquidation, to pare on-balance gains to \$150.50 from \$255 per ton. The two contracts, Oct. closed \$21.25 up.

The morning markets had posted average gains of \$26, with positions from March, 1981, onward locked in at a \$20 limit advance from Thursday's session.

The respective turnovers were 7,785 and 737 lots.

Dealers said heavy commission, chart and trade support for much of the day continued to be the major reports of substantial consumer buying interest in sugar from the world market, particularly China, Poland and Venezuela. Also affecting sentiment was the report that the U.S. had a full-scale beet crop harvesting until Sept. 20.

The Bank of England gave help on an exceptionally large scale yesterday as the £370m "call" that fell due on 12 per cent Treasury, 1987, drained the market of funds and put paid to the less difficult conditions that the discount market had been enjoying for the past week or two. The discount houses closed at around 151.1 per cent.

Sterling Spot and Forward

Foreign exchange markets spent a quiet day yesterday with rates holding reasonably steady ahead of the weekend and the meeting of the Group of Seven nations starting on Monday.

Sterling finished 20 points better against the dollar at \$2.1475, up from \$2.1450 on Friday.

The effective "exchange rate index" was finally purchased at 100.00, up from 99.81 at the opening and at midday.

Dealers said that after all the speculation about United Kingdom interest rates, most operators were sitting back, waiting for the Bank of England to announce what it had to say about the possibility of a move to accept a "basket" of currencies as payment for oil.

The London Eurodollar rate for the dollar was 3.125% and Citibank's lead to a 12½ per cent prime rate yesterday afternoon had been fully followed by other banks.

The yen closed under the best-

| | September 12 | Market rate |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| | (day's range) | (close) |
| New York | \$2.9555-56 | 1.50-1.51 |
| Montreal | \$2.9770-8080 | 1.58-1.59c prem |
| Amsterdam | 4.65-4.69 1/2 | 24-24c prem |
| London | 2.97-2.98 1/2 | 24-24c prem |
| Copenhagen | 33.27-34 | 30.00-30.00c |
| Dublin | 1.1380-1250 | 17-17c prem |
| Lisbon | 119.20-20 | 119-119c |
| Madrid | 115.70-70 | 115-115c |
| Milan | 2.97-2.97 1/2 | 15-15c disc |
| Paris | 11.81-81 1/2 | 118-118c |
| Rome | 2.97-2.97 1/2 | 30-30c prem |
| Stockholm | 16.00-64 | 30 prem-40c disc |
| Tokyo | 511-512 | 145-145c prem |
| West Germany | 3.92-3.92 1/2 | 30-30c prem |
| Zurich | 3.92-3.92 1/2 | 34-34c prem |

Effective each rate was announced on December 11, 1971, was 75.50 cents.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Australia | 2.0500-2.0600 |
| Bahrein | 0.9100-0.9120 |
| Finland | 8.7300-8.7790 |
| Greece | 191.15-193.15 |
| Hongkong | 11.9145-11.9545 |
| Iran | Not available |
| Kuwait | 0.6420-0.6450 |
| Malaysia | 5.0750-5.1050 |
| Norway | 54.7-56.2 |
| New Zealand | 2.4350-2.4395 |
| Saudi Arabia | 7.0025-8.0225 |
| Singapore | 5.0850-5.1150 |
| South Africa | 1.8090-1.8210 |

| | Bank of England | Morgan Guaranty Index | Changes |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Sterling | 76.2 | -29.8 | |
| U.S. dollar | 82.2 | -10.3 | |
| Canadian dollar | 80.8 | -17.0 | |
| Schilling | 156.1 | +24.4 | |
| Belgian franc | 115.1 | +13.3 | |
| Danish kroner | 106.6 | -4.7 | |
| Deutsche mark | 154.4 | +43.6 | |
| Swiss franc | 198.1 | +50.1 | |
| Guilder | 126.2 | +20.2 | |
| French franc | 101.0 | -6.0 | |
| Lira | 52.8 | -51.6 | |
| Yen | 133.8 | +31.3 | |

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971.
(Bank of England Index 100).

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ireland | 2 168-2 118 |
| Canada | 1 802-1 168 |
| Netherlands | 1 934-1 923 |
| Belgium | 28 55-26 8 |
| Denmark | 5 505-5 503 |
| West Germany | 1 7793-1 770 |
| Portugal | 48 48-49 5 |
| Spain | 73 14-73 1 |
| Italy | 845 30-847 0 |
| Norway | 4 8190-4 821 |
| France | 4 1345-4 138 |
| Sweden | 4 1490-4 151 |
| Japan | 212 80-212 9 |

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Austria | 12.54-12.6 |
| Switzerland | 1.6300-1.634 |

* Ireland quoted in U.S. currency
 + Canada \$1 : U.S. 90.8617-0.862

Cost of Capital: WACC 14%
 (Just changed 3/7/98)
 Clearing Bank Lease Rate 16%
 Discount Rate: Lease 16%
 Weekend High 16% Low 15%
 Week Fixed: 15%-15%

Treasury Bills (Disf.)
 Buying Selling
 2 months 14% 2 months 14%
 3 months 14 1/8% 3 months 14%

Prime Bank Bills (Disf.) Trades (Disf.)
 2 months 15 1/8%-15 1/8% 3 months 15%

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 months 15-14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 4 months 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 4 months 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 6 months 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 6 months 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Local Authority Bonds | |
| 1 month 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 months 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ -15 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

| | ECU current rates | cent against the ECU | % change from central, adjusted rate* | % change from central, adjusted rate* | divergence limit plus minus |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Belgian franc | 30.7897 | 40.6994 | +0.04 | +0.39 | 1.50 |
| Danish krone | 7.2236 | 7.4633 | +0.33 | +0.36 | 1.50 |
| German Deutsch | 1.3663 | 1.3517 | +1.48 | +0.22 | 1.00 |
| French franc | 5.8470 | 5.8451 | +0.34 | +1.62 | 1.2977 |
| Dutch guilder | 2.74362 | 2.74978 | +0.22 | +0.44 | 1.00 |
| Irish punt | 1.4885 | 1.4768 | +0.82 | +1.14 | 1.00 |
| Italian lira | 1187.79 | 1203.78 | +0.97 | +2.31 | 8.00 |

+ changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes we are above the divergence limit.

* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's 50-day divergence limit.

Adjusted calculated by The Times.

Euro-\$ Deposits Gold

10% call, 9-10%: ven. das.
10% 10%: one month, 11-11%:
three months, 11% 11%: six
months, 12% 12%.

Gold fixed: sm. \$678.50/oz (one ounce)
pr. \$674.00 close, \$687.80
Kruggerand 1000 coins: \$700.00-
\$782.50-\$83.75.
Sovereign (new): \$173.50-179
(\$171.75-\$72.75).

17, 1 calls, 9^h-10^h; even days.
10^h-10^h; one month, 11-11^h.
three months, 11^h-11^h; six
months, 12^h-12^h.

[illegible]

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing Shoparound with Beryl Downing

Regular readers of this page may have noticed that, as far as I am concerned, a girl's best friend is not a houseplant. Flawless and shrubs and leafy things are thoroughly desirable outside—I even manage to cultivate a sprig or two myself with some modest success. But put a plant in a pot and the effect is that of putting an otherwise normal human being

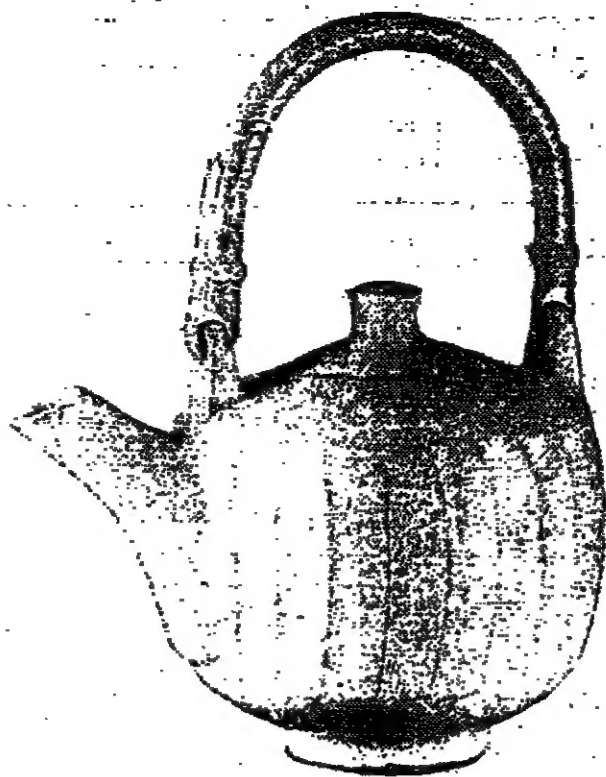
in a ticket office. It immediately becomes officious. However, while filling a country house with pot plants seems on the superficial side, I quite understand leaf-hungry Londoners trying to turn every room into a miniature Kew, even though I maintain that if God had intended us to live in a jungle for ever He would have let us keep our hair on and given us a few more bananas.

Still, for the benefit of those who believe that vegetation should be viewed and not chewed, I have been looking at *The House Plant Expert* by David Messayon, published by PBI Publications at £1.95 and recommended this week by our gardening expert Roy May. I particularly enjoyed the tips on what to do when things go wrong, which implies that

I am not the only one to cultivate brown and shrivelled leaves, and the large A to Z section identifying all the species and giving notes on their thoroughly inflexible preferences. It is all very informative and certainly not Dr Messayon's fault that I still view pot plants with grave suspicion.

Ever since it became fashionable to measure the ability of plants to communicate I have felt threatened. I even find the language people use about them positively sinister. I don't want plants to "make statements" or even whisper sweet nothings, and to me anything that calls itself "architectural" is admitting that it is inclined to grow out of all proportion, is the sort of thing interior designers use when they can't afford a Hepworth and anyway is nothing short of hideous.

It is probably all to do with reading about the Trillids at too tender an age and I am sure your communication with your plants is on a much more sensitive level. If so, don't leave my remarks anywhere near one of your prize specimens. I haven't actually yet heard of plants reading, but you can't be too careful.



A solo exhibition of work by David Leach opens at the Craftsman Pottery Shop, William Blake House, Marshall Street, London W1, on Tuesday and will continue until September 27. The teapot illustrated shows one of his particular skills in glazing and chiselling a clay surface—a technique he also uses on bowls, cups and jars.

Pattern coordination within a single colour grouping is a design concept much favoured by interior designers and the manufacturers of the more expensive ranges of fabrics and wall papers who offer plains, florals, geometrics and border designs in toning shades of the same colour.

Now the idea has been taken into the DIY market by Kingfisher Wallcoverings, who this month have produced a new collection of ready pasted vinyl wallcoverings in 27 designs, each featured in a poster book divided into seven basic colour themes—blue, green, russet, brown, yellow, pink and peaches and cream.

In each group there are various designs which relate to one another. An all-over floral, for instance, has a companion design with similar flowers grouped into bouquets or will blend equally well with a traditional stripe in the same tones, or with a plain colour with a textured linen finish. You simply decide on your colour and make your selection to suit your furnishings, traditional or modern.

The idea is based on the fact that 70 per cent of customers put colour first: when they choose a wallcovering, presumably the other 30 per cent are rich and don't count the cost, poor and have no existing furnishings to impose restrictions, or American and brain-washed into throwing everything away every five years.

If you are none of these but simply want to have a change of scene and are prudent enough to realize that the most expensive part of decorating is the labour charge, then ready-pasted vinyl is undoubtedly one of the simplest ways for the amateur to achieve even results and this new Kingfisher collection, called Moods, has an attractive, neat finish which is less obtrusive than the stiffer vinyls.

I particularly liked a design called Adèle, which features delicate gazebos set in stylized landscape of hills, trees and flowers. It comes in three colours: with an Indian red design called Modesty and in peach, pale green and blue on a cream ground, delightful for a country room. You can see it in one of the Kingfisher pattern books available at branches of H. Charn, F&S, Dodge City, Drexel, Mecca. Prices are around £6-7 a roll.



The latest picture jumpers by Jeff Dillon come in fine or chunky acrylic knits. Right, style 3725 is an Italian hand-knit showing a house and landscape and comes on backgrounds of white, black burgundy, dusky blue or dusky pink at £17.75. Left, the room set picture is on backgrounds of navy or natural, style 87, at £9.99. Both are in medium size only from Males, 356 Oxford Street and main branches.

The idea of acquiring a skill that can be practised at home, will be an absorbing money-saving hobby and may also develop into a source of income is undoubtedly attractive. Unfortunately many crafts that qualify on all three counts do need a certain amount of artistic ability which many of us do not have the self-confidence even to discover in ourselves, let alone exploit.

The technique of restoring antique ceramics, however, requires dexterity and patience rather than a creative talent, at least at the basic level of repairing broken pieces. Obviously, the more advanced restoration work involving the remodelling of missing parts does demand sculpting skills, but even those who cannot pursue the technique to such a level can still find simple restoration a profitable pleasure.

The vital missing ingredient is individual instruction. There are excellent full-time courses at the V & A but apart from these the various part-time courses available usually have such large classes that the instruction has to be more in the nature of demonstration than tuition. The alternative is to sit in with a restorer in a shop as an apprentice and learn by watching and being a general dogbody.

Now, however, there is a fourth option. Jana Stuart Jones, one of the country's leading restorers, is running a series of special courses at her Somerset home. She takes only four students at a time, ensuring individual instruction in the methods she has developed over 17 years and which bring

antique dealers from all parts of this country and the United States to seek her expert touch.

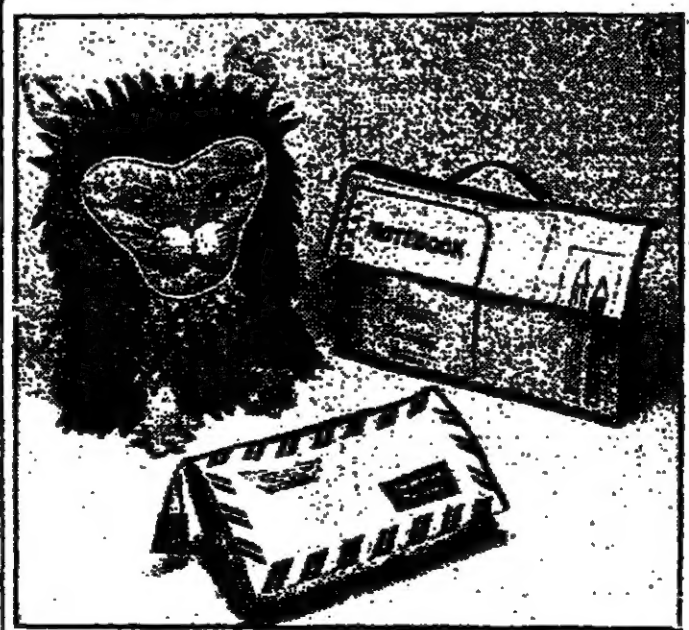
There are two courses—the five-day introductory which covers stripping, cleaning and bleaching, sticking, making up chips in self-coloured materials, filling cracks and making up small missing pieces. The ten-day comprehensive course adds pegging, taking moulds, the free modelling of missing pieces, casting sections, knobs, handles and a small amount of spray painting.

"I don't like painted repairs—they don't fool anybody," says Jana Stuart Jones. "I prefer to teach students to do a good cosmetic repair without paint and I am not pretending that anyone can become an expert restorer in 10 days. But with a basic course and six months' practice most of my students can achieve a reasonable standard of repair work."

A special feature of both courses is that they include a follow-up weekend, held six weeks after the initial instruction, when students can bring practice pieces for critical assessment.

The cost of the courses reflects the possibility of lucrative results. The introductory course is £150, the comprehensive £280. Both include all materials, the follow-up weekend, light lunches and coffees. They do not cover accommodation, which can be provided at an extra charge.

The next comprehensive course starts on October 5 with a follow-up weekend on November 28-30. For details of future courses write to Jana Stuart Jones, Old School, Sawell, Bridgewater, Somerset.



Child bribery set—colourful lion pyjama case (early to bed) £11.60. Par Avon pencil case (get your homework done) or sponge bag (wash behind the ears) £1.47; school case with printed notebook front (get me to the class on time) £2.50. All from The Tree House, 237 Kensington High Street, London W8. 50p p&p on each item.

Summer this year was a cumin in about August 9 and a goin' out about 18 days later, give or take a day or two. But there can be no argument about its successor. When the Habitat catalogue is published you know autumn has arrived.

The new one is full of interesting ideas, among them a range of furniture called Tech, which is based on industrial style steel tubing with a matt black finish. The armchairs, £120, and two-seater sofa, £185, have tubular frames and are covered in charcoal coloured cotton, and there is a matching trolley at £27.50, with shelves of perforated steel sheet, which would make a good audio storage unit, telephone table or mobile coffee table. These are available now, as is smart new black version of Habitat's popular enamel two-pint coffee pot (£3.75) and half-pint mugs (90p each).

Another new seating line called Sorby is one of the simplest and most compact versions yet of a sofa-bed. The basic unit is an armless seat built on a plywood frame and covered in quilted cotton to match the covering of the poly-

ether foam cushions for seat and back. These are attached to each other and simply fold out on to the floor to make a 6ft 3in bed. The unit can be bolted together to make continuous seating or they can be enclosed at each end with arm panels to make single chairs or multi-seat sofas.

Each unit is 30in wide and costs £99. The armchairs are £35, so a single armchair would cost £134, a two-seater sofa £233. The covering is in red or beige Cotton Clean plain fabric, which is supposed to resist stains and spills. I poured successive glasses of red wine, coffee and blackcurrant juice on the sample I had and, true enough, each liquid simply lay on the surface without penetrating and could be mopped up without leaving a mark.

The Sorby units, which pass both the match and cigarette flame-resistance test required from October, will be on show in Habitat stores from the end of September and can be ordered through the catalogue, which costs 75p, from the Habitat Design Ltd, PO Box 2, Withercroft Road, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9DQ.

To go with her glamorous lingerie Janet Reger has just produced a collection of satin slippers as gant as evening shoes. This style, Carrot, comes in sizes 4 to 7 in burgundy, chestnut brown, green or black, all trimmed in gold. £28.50 from Janet Reger at 2 Beauchamp Place, London, and 12 New Bond Street, London W1. Mail order for art extra £1 p&p.

Photograph by Karen Gray

Do you know the difference between acrylic and modacrylic, whether to wash acetate on the same programme as elastane, whether you can dye polyester? There are so many brand names for man-made fibres these days that you need a chemistry degree to do the weekly wash and there is not much point in having labels that identify fibre content if the sum of the parts is more confusing than the whole.

The British Man-made Fibres Federation, however, have come to the rescue with two booklets. The larger, *Guide to Man-made Fibres*, identifies the types, discusses their uses, explains briefly how they are made and has a few paragraphs on home sewing, stain removal and dyeing.

A small leaflet, *Man-made Fibres and You*, gives particularly helpful machine washing information. For a free copy of each write to the British Man-made Fibres Federation, 24 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LE.

Also on the subject of clean-

ing, a colleague asked the other day whether it was possible to have silk lampshades dry-cleaned. So far I have drawn a complete blank—none of the chain cleaners will tackle them. Sketchleys say it was once possible to do it by hand, with white spirit, but that modern chemicals have to be used in enclosed drums which are unsuitable for lampshades.

We thought of spray-on cleaners, but Jeeves, the specialist hand-cleaners, warned us that they are likely to leave marks on silk. I have tried sponging my silk shades, but haven't dared immerse them completely in case the frames stain the fabric.

Can any reader come to the aid of my colleague—and, probably, many other owners of old but well-loved silk shades.—by suggesting a successful home-remedy?

Walk into Simpson's of Piccadilly any time during the next fortnight and among the traditional tailoring, you will find an Aston Martin Lagonda, a

new Reliant Scimitar, a TR7 convertible, a power that won't turn over an child's racing car. Not much but the real thing.

They are all part of a British Enterprise exhibition staged by Simpson's to overcome a slump in the car industry and to recognize the achievement of many of Britain's most standing companies.

The duces of 52 companies and colleges will be exhibited of state. Boxes of the store new "lightweight, space-saver" aircraft seat, British Rail a model of the 130 mph passenger train they will be launching in October. On the fashion, there will be D&G tailoring by computer and the Smiths Company will be showing refractory metal jewelry, titanium, emulsion and more.

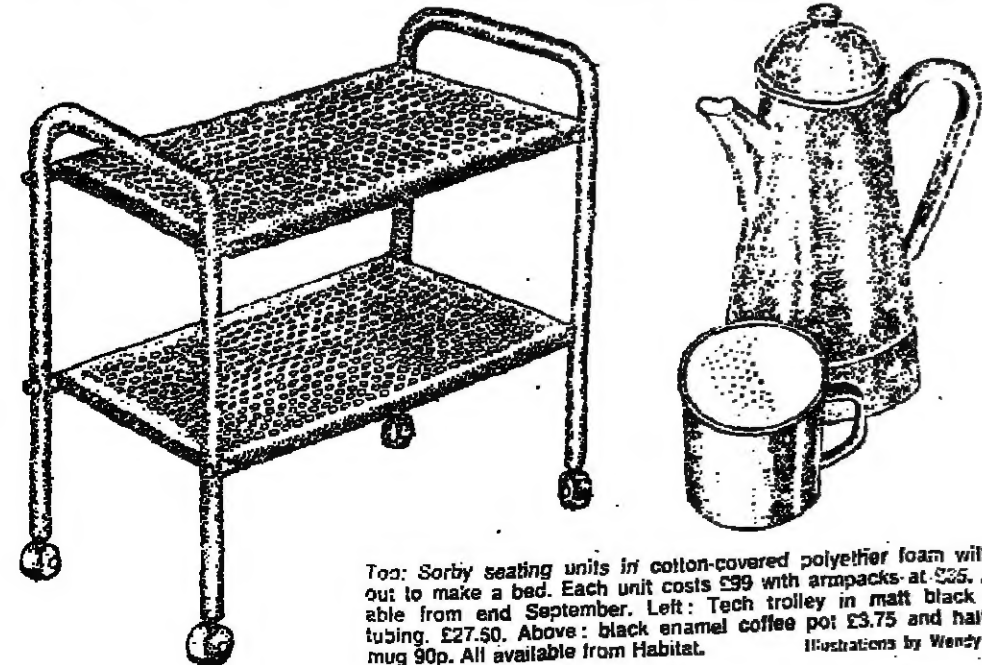
All the displays will be accompanied by video film still photographs with information for the technical minded. The exhibition will open from Monday to Saturday, September 27.

It was not fun in the bath last night. There was accompanied as usual by John Roberts (via *The Financial World Tonight*) juggling with bulls and bears while I played with my dolphin, frog and turtle. I was not bathing in a menagerie but simply doing a little one-woman research on your behalf: my aquatic friends had purported to be floating soap, but they were packed, most attractively, in boxes which depicted their contents in bright colours and as endearing cartoon characters. Alas, when opened—and you don't usually open a box of soap to examine the contents while you are in the shop—they turned out to be more coloured, unimaginatively designed and a blither disappointment. The turtle managed to keep only one leg above water and the frog and the dolphin ignominiously took a nose-dive straight to the bottom.

To the children for whom they are intended they would be a miserable letdown and if I had anything to do with trade descriptions I would come down on the French manufacturers like a ton of their own leaden product. It may be that time had come from a bad batch but until the makers get it right every time £1.25 is too much to pay for sinking soap.



The week's worst buy—floating soap that



Too: Sorby seating units in cotton-covered polyether foam will fold out to make a bed. Each unit costs £99 with armchairs at £35. Available from end September. Left: Tech trolley in matt black steel tubing, £27.50. Above: black enamel coffee pot £3.75 and half pint mug 90p. All available from Habitat.

Illustrations by Wendy Jones

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